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ARTICLE I.

ON TRAINING AND EDUCATING IDIOTS: THE
SECOND ANNUAL REPORT MADE TO THE LEGISLA-
TURE OF MASSACHUSETTS. *By S. G. Howe, M. D.*

PERKINS INSTITUTION AND MASS. ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND, {
Boston, January 20, 1851.

To his Excellency, the Governor:—

SIR,—I have the honor to lay before you the Second An-
nual Report of the doings under the Resolves of the
Legislature, May 8th, 1848, for

TRAINING AND TEACHING IDIOTS.*

By those Resolves there was appropriated the sum of
twenty-five hundred dollars a year, for three years, for

* By a Resolution of the Legislature, April 11th, 1846, the Governor was au-
thorized to appoint three Commissioners, to enquire into the condition of the
Idiots of the Commonwealth, to ascertain their number, and whether anything
can be done in their behalf.

The Commissioners were, S. G. Howe, Horatio Byington, and Gilman Kim-
ball. A partial Report was made by the Chairman in the winter of 1847, which
may be found in House Document, No. 152.

The same gentlemen made a full and final Report, dated Feb. 26th, 1848,
which was printed, Senate Document, No. 51.

the purpose of finding out by actual trial, whether the bodily and mental condition of IDIOTIC PERSONS could be improved, and whether the blessing of instruction, which Massachusetts provides for all others, could be extended likewise to these, the most unfortunate of all her children.*

Your predecessor in office made arrangements with me, as head of this Institution, for conducting the trial, and making the experiment.

One of the conditions of the arrangement was, that the experiment should be tried upon at least ten idiotic youth, the children of paupers and indigent persons belonging to Massachusetts.

Ten such children were brought together, from different parts of the State, mostly from the Almshouses, in the autumn of 1848. In February, 1850, I made a Report at considerable length, giving the result of the trial up to that time, which Report was published by order of the Legislature, and may be found in House Document, No. 38.

* The Resolves of May 8th, 1848, were as follows:—

Resolved, That there be paid out of the treasury of the Commonwealth, a sum, not exceeding twenty-five hundred dollars, annually, for the term of three years, for the purpose of training and teaching ten idiotic children, to be selected by the Governor and Council, from those at public charge, or from the families of indigent persons in different parts of the Commonwealth, provided that an arrangement can be made by the Governor and Council with any suitable Institution now patronized by the Commonwealth, for charitable purposes; and provided, that said appropriations shall not be made a charge upon the school fund.

Resolved, That the trustees of the institution, undertaking the instruction and training of said idiots, shall, at the end of each and every year, render to the Governor and Council an account of the actual expense incurred on account of said idiots, and if the amount expended shall be less than the sum received from the public treasury, the unexpended balance shall be deducted from the amount of the next annual appropriation.

Resolved, That the said trustees shall be authorized to require that the authorities of any town which may send any idiot paupers to them, for instruction, be required to keep them supplied with comfortable and decent clothing.

Approved by the Governor, May 8th, 1848.

Before giving an account of what has been done during the past year, allow me to state what were the hopes and expectations of those who undertook and urged on this enterprise. They are set forth in the first Report in the following words:—

"It is not expected that those youth who are below the grade of simpletons will ever gain such acquaintance with the common branches of learning, as will be of much ornament, or *direct* use to them. It is not expected that they will be raised to a level with ordinary persons, or play an independent part in the world, and take care of themselves. Great pains are taken, indeed, to teach them to read simple sentences—to count, to write, to sing,—but this is not with the expectation that they will ever be able to do these things well, or have any direct benefit from them, but mainly with a view to train and strengthen the intellect by *exercise* in the attempt to learn them.

"If then, it is not expected that they will gain any truly profitable knowledge, even of the elementary branches of learning, or become men, even of the most ordinary abilities,—what is expected, and what is the object of establishing a school for them; and what is the end and aim of all this labor and expense?

"My answer is, that these poor creatures possess not only the instincts and propensities which man has in common with the brutes, but that, moreover, they possess the feeble germs of those intellectual faculties, moral sentiments, and social affections, which in man are superadded to his animal nature, and which make the crowning glory of humanity.

"A few of the idiots have really feebler perceptive faculties than dogs and monkeys; it may be, that with ever

so much instruction, they will remain inferior to those brutes, in mere *knowledge*, but then they have a feeble portion of that light of the soul, not one ray of which could ever be discovered in the nature of dogs and monkeys, were they trained and taught, generation after generation, to the end of time.

"Now, it is proposed, not only to train and develop, as much as possible, the feeble intellectual powers of the idiot, but also, to call out and strengthen the dormant or feeble capacities of every part of his nature. The most of them are now left in ignorance and in idleness. Nothing being done to improve their condition, of course it must grow worse.

"It is proposed, therefore, to show our reverence for God's plain will, and to acknowledge the common brotherhood of man, by taking these the most unfortunate of His children, and attempting to lift them up to a place, humble though it be, upon the common platform of humanity.

"It is hoped to train them up to cleanliness and decency; to prevent or root out vicious and debasing habits; to moderate glutinous appetites; and to lessen the strength of the animal nature, generally, by calling into some activity the higher feelings and desires, and by substituting constant occupation for idleness.

"It is proposed to train all the senses and perceptive faculties by constant and varied exercise, to strengthen the power of attention; to teach, as much as possible, the rudiments of knowledge; to develop the muscular system, and to give some degree of dexterity in simple handicraft. Efforts will be made to call out their social affections, and to lessen their inordinate selfishness, by awakening some feeling of regard for others, in return for kindness and love manifested towards them.

"The still harder task will be attempted of appealing to the moral sense, and drawing out what little capacity there may exist for comprehending right, for exercising conscience, and for developing the religious sentiment.

"It is hoped that part of them will gain some really useful knowledge ; that most of them will become cleanly, decent, temperate and industrious ; and that all of them will be better and happier for the efforts made in their behalf."

I am happy to be able to say that these hopes and expectations have been fulfilled. Among the children taken and kept under instruction and training, several, who were in a state of hopeless idiocy, have gained some really useful knowledge ; most of them have become cleanly, decent, docile, and industrious ; and all of them are happier and better in consequence of the efforts made in their behalf. The enterprise has been carried on with an earnest perseverance, which entire faith in its final accomplishment was sure to give. That faith has now become assurance ; and this assurance is partaken by the parents of the unfortunate children, and by many who have watched the trial. If this assurance could become general, the permanency of the establishment would be secured, and the experimental school would become a permanent Institution.

One of the difficulties, however, in the way is the popular error that idiocy is a positive and incurable malady, or an utter and hopeless privation of mind; whereas, it is neither the one nor the other, but only an infirmity or weakness of mind, greater or less. It may be so great indeed, that the sufferer is lower than the brutes in point of intelligence, or it may be so slight, that one is perplexed to decide, whether he is, or is not to be consider-

ed idiotic ; he stands, with a multitude of others, upon the dividing line, between silly persons and positive simpletons.

It is difficult to show, to persons who have not examined the subject of idiocy, and who are unacquainted with the former condition of our pupils, that they have made any great improvement. The ordinary standard is utterly useless for measuring them. Whatever progress they may have made, and whatever acquirements they may have gained, their knowledge is still, and must remain, a *minus* quantity, when compared with that of other children. Whoever compares the children in our school with those even of an inferior common school, will find the brightest in the first to be inferior to the dunces in the other.

Whoever should visit our school without ever having seen it before, and note the condition of the scholars without knowing what their condition was formerly, would find it hard to say a word of approval or encouragement. Of all such, we must ask a little faith in the statements we may make, though these will be sustained by such evidence, from the parents of the pupils, as can be obtained.

There are persons, however, (and there must be many such in the Legislature,) who know from actual observation, what is the condition of idiots in our country towns, especially in the almshouses, and such persons are earnestly invited to come and examine our school, and see if it does not give proofs enough of the capacity of idiots for instruction and improvement.

Most of these youth were, three years ago, in an utterly helpless and hopeless condition of idiocy. Some of them sat or lay in drivelling impotency, unable to do anything but swallow the food that was given them. They

were void of speech and understanding. They were filthy in their persons and habits, and given to debasing practices. They were unable to dress themselves, or sit at table and feed themselves. They passed their time in idleness, without a thought or an effort to better their deplorable condition. Some of them were noisy and destructive in their habits.

A great change has now come over them. They have improved in health, strength, and activity of body. They are cleanly and decent in their habits. They dress themselves, and, for the most part, sit at table and feed themselves. They are gentle, docile, and obedient. They can be governed without a blow or unkind word. *They begin to use speech*, and take great delight in repeating the words of simple sentences, which they have mastered. They have learned their letters, and some of them, WHO WERE AS SPEECHLESS AS BRUTES, CAN READ EASY SENTENCES AND SHORT STORIES!

They are gentle and affectionate with each other; and the school and the household are orderly, quiet, and well regulated in all respects.

The former condition of these youth furnishes a fair specimen of what is the actual condition of hundreds in our Commonwealth, and thousands in our country; and their present condition furnishes a fair specimen of what may become the condition of all, if the State will take them under her fostering care.

With these preliminary remarks, I proceed to give the general history of the experiment during the last year, and a detailed notice of some cases, which will serve to illustrate the subject, and the mode of instruction.

The instruction of the pupils has continued to be given by Mr. T. B. Richards, who has shown much zeal, and obtained great success as a teacher. The improvement

in the bodily and mental condition of the pupils is mainly owing to his labors, and those of his faithful assistants.

I am constrained also to mention my obligations to Dr. Edward Jarvis, for the wise counsels and efficient services which he has given to the establishment.

The school was removed, for a year, to a spacious private house in South Boston, which has a large garden attached, and which furnished good opportunity to the inmates for exercise and recreation. The house could not be had, however, for more than a year, and the school was removed to its old quarters, in one wing of the Institution for the Blind. It is greatly to be regretted, that the experiment could not be conducted all the time under the highly favoring circumstances which such a location as it enjoyed last year gave to it; but the want of means of hiring a proper house and grounds forbade it.

The whole number of children received, under the provisions of the State appropriation, is 17. Of these, seven have been discharged, for the following reasons:—

One was found after a few weeks' trial, to be an improper subject for the experiment, because it appeared clear that he had too much capacity and intelligence, though he had been considered idiotic and sent to us as such.

Three others were found to be rather deranged than idiotic.

One proved to be hydrocephalic, and was discharged on that account.

One was so feeble and unhealthy, and required such constant nursing, as to be unfit for an experimental school.

One was so much improved by a year and a half training and instruction, that he was able to go to a common primary school, and was discharged accordingly.

All the seven had, with one exception, greatly improved in their condition and habits. Even the insane had become quiet and docile. They were more comfortable, and in a better condition in all respects, than they were before they entered the school, or than they have been since. They were not, however, fair representatives of the class whose capacity for improvement was to be tested by the experiment, any more than was the one who proved to be too intelligent, and they were therefore discharged. The present number is ten; seven boys and three girls. They were taken from indigent families, or from alms-houses, in different parts of Massachusetts, agreeably to the conditions of the act of the Legislature.

Besides the ten State beneficiaries, eight private pupils have been received, five of whom still remain under training and instruction. This measure was adopted to save those who managed the experiment from too great pecuniary loss, the grant from the State not being sufficient for the expenses of the establishment. Two hundred and fifty dollars each is not enough for the board, training, and instruction of ten idiots, though half that sum might suffice for each, if there were a hundred of them. It was found that the reception of private pupils was not at all unfavorable to the State pupils. Some of them are from wealthy families, who are willing to pay a high price for the advantages they receive.

This measure, then, while aiding in paying the expenses of the experiment, serves to extend more widely the usefulness of the school.

The general course of training and instruction, which was described in the last report, has been followed during the past year, and with the same marked success. A plain but plentiful diet; abundance of sleep; cold bathing, followed by friction; walking and running in the

open air; gymnastic exercises, for giving muscular activity and strength; amusements of various kinds:—such are the means relied upon for promoting and maintaining the bodily health of the pupils. An improvement of the physical condition and a nearer approach to a normal state of health, naturally begets greater freedom and precision in the action of the mental powers; just as repairing and cleansing the works of a watch causes greater precision in the motion of the hands.

Special care and attention has been given, however, to bring out and to train the feeble mental faculties of the pupils, by simple exercises, adapted to the purpose. These were described in the last report, and the description need not be repeated now.

It is not necessary, either, to go into a detailed account of each pupil. Two cases, however, will be described, because they are types of a class, and because the success obtained with them is great and striking.

The first will be the type of the class of IDIOTS PROPER.

In former reports I divided idiotic persons, for the sake of convenient and popular classification and with a view to showing the degree of their mental infirmity, into three classes—Idiots, Fools, and Simpletons; the first being the lowest, the last the highest, in the intellectual scale. The class of idiots comprehends many whose mental infirmity arises from various causes, but I consider the pure type of idiocy to be a person whose lack of understanding arises from the smallness of his brain. The organ is so small that it cannot perform its functions in a normal manner; it has not power enough. This class is very small. For one person in whom idiocy is caused by smallness of the brain, there are many in whom it is oc-

casioned by other causes; many whose brains are of normal size, but not of normal condition.

George Rowell is a congenital idiot. He entered our school in December, 1848, being then seven years and six months old. His head was very small, especially in the upper regions. The greatest circumference, over the occipital spine and the frontal sinuses, was only 14 inches, 91 hundredths. The greatest length, measuring from ear to ear, over the top of the head, was only 10.44 in. From the root of the nose to the occipital spine, over the head, 10.13 inches. He was small of stature, being only three feet nine inches in height; and he weighed only thirty-two pounds. His temperament was decidedly nervous, his organization fine, his complexion fair, his hair fine and light, his eyes dark and bright, his lips and nostrils thin, his chest and abdomen narrow, his extremities slender and bony, his fingers delicate and well-proportioned.

His health was feeble, and he was subject to epileptic fits, which recurred frequently. His father, in writing about him, says: "he was sickly, sometimes having two fits in a night."

The senses of hearing and taste were not particularly dull, though those of smell and taste were. He was very active in his motions; his countenance was lively; and, in his gait and some of his habits, he reminded one of a monkey. In point of intelligence he was very low. Speech, that peculiarly human attribute, and the surest test, in such cases, of the degree of intellect, was wanting; he could only pronounce three words, and those only indistinctly. He was, to all intents and purposes, as dumb as a brute. He could be made to understand simple directions, by signs and sounds, but hardly more than a dog; and his memory was so feeble that he forgot

them at once. He had no sense of decency or of duty, and no regard for the rights or feelings of others.

There was, however, much vitality and energy about him, which, being expended through his animal nature, kept him active, restless, and mischievous. He was passionate and destructive, and given to picking things to pieces, and destroying them. His appetite was voracious, and he would cram anything he could lay his hands upon into his mouth, without the use of fork or spoon. His acquisitiveness showed itself in his disposition to possess himself of whatever he could; pushing others away to obtain it, and hoarding it up for himself. He had no sense of decency, and his habits were those of an infant.

Such was this boy two years and a half ago; nor was there any reasonable hope of his improvement. In the language of his father, "there seemed no hope of his learning to speak, or read, or take care of himself."

But now a great and happy change has come over him. He is decent in all his habits, and cleanliness has not only become a custom, but a want. He is neat in his dress; he sits at table, and conducts himself properly, using a knife and fork, and eating as other children do. He makes his bed, sweeps the floor, assists in scouring knives, and does various little *chores* about the house, with great good humor and sufficient skill. But the most gratifying result is, that he **BEGINS TO SPEAK!** About this beginning there are some interesting phenomena. His case shows, very strikingly, the great importance of the early and ceaseless prattle of little children. They are training themselves for speech, by subtle exercise of the nice little muscles of the lips, the tongue, and the throat; and the words which they catch are repeated over, a million of times, until they acquire such pliancy,

such swiftness, and such dexterity, as would appear to us marvellous, had we not acquired the same, without knowing how long we were about it, or what it cost us.

After this long and varied training, which is all in the way of sport, children have the organ of speech fully prepared to pronounce a language as fast as it can be supplied to them. They imitate, perfectly and readily, the pronunciation of any words of the language, or of any foreign language, provided it do not contain sounds which their own has not. If it does, they hesitate, because they had never drilled their organs to emit this particular sound.

Whenever a person is prevented, by any cause whatever, from learning to speak in early childhood, and attempts to do so later in life, he has great difficulty in articulating words; he cannot learn to speak so fast as he can learn to understand language, because his organs have not been trained. If he is an adult, and his articulating organs have had their growth, and become hardened, he can never break them in so as to modulate new sounds,—he can never pronounce the shibboleth of other tongues.

There are many well educated deaf mutes who can read and write their own and even foreign languages, with great ease and correctness; but if one of them should be suddenly made to hear, he could not speak; but he would have to go through a very long and tedious training of his vocal organs, before he could articulate so as to be understood. So it is with those idiots who have not mind enough,—who have not the human attributes strong enough,—to impel them, as other children are impelled, to exercise the vocal organs, and who have had no special aid given them to do so. When this aid comes at last, as it does in the case of the boy now under con-

sideration, then the difficulty manifests itself; he cannot use language nearly as fast as he learns to understand it. George, however, does not now need any urging to talk; the *innate disposition* to do so was always there, as it is in every human being; and now that the *faculty* has been awakened, with the awakening comes the desire of exercising it; his tongue has been loosed, and every hour, almost every minute, he keeps it in motion. He still finds great difficulty in articulating any new word, but this will be overcome rapidly.

He has learned to read simple sentences, and does read understandingly, and with great pleasure and pride, such books as Bumstead's Primer. That he understands what he reads, and that it awakens in his mind the same feelings and affections as it does in other children, the following anecdote, related by Mr. Richards, will show:—

“One day, in reading about a little girl who fell into the water, George looked up, with a countenance full of anxiety, and exclaimed, inquiringly, ‘*girl-fell-water?*’ Yes, said I; and he seemed very sad, till I told him to read on; when he came to the sentence, ‘the large black dog jumped into the water and pulled her out.’ He seemed to fear that it was not so, and said, inquiringly, ‘*pulled-her-out?*’ Yes, said I. Then repeating his question, as if it were hardly possible, he said, ‘*pulled-her-out?*’ Yes, I told him, pulled her out of the water! He immediately dropped his book, and, turning round, threw his arms round the neck of a little boy who sat near, and hugged and kissed him, crying and laughing alternately for joy.”

The family and friends of this boy, who knew his former and present condition, readily bear their testimony

to the change and improvement which has taken place in him.

His father writes thus :—

AMESBURY, Jan. 15, 1851.

DR. S. G. HOWE :

Dear Sir,—In answer to your inquiry, I would say that my son George, when he left to go to your Institution, was in a very helpless condition. He could not articulate words, and was sickly, sometimes having two fits in a night. We had to take care of him and attend upon him as upon an infant. There seemed no hope of his learning to speak, or read, or take care of himself.

In this condition he went to Boston. On his first visit home, we saw a decided improvement. On the second, we were both surprised and rejoiced ; his health was good, and he could speak and read. We now thankfully trust, that he will be able to take care of himself in life, with comfort to himself and friends.

Your's respectfully,

JACOB ROWELL, Jr.

Annexed to this letter were two others, as follows :—

The undersigned cheerfully bears testimony to the marked and wonderful improvement in the boy, George J. Rowell. The change is almost like a resurrection of mind from death—or, rather, a new creation.

JOHN G. WHITTIER.

Amesbury, 1st mo., 15th day, 1851.

I would say, that I have known the lad above-named for several years, and can testify to the facts above-stated. I saw him last June, and was astonished to see the improvement he had made, in mind and appearance.

SARAH M. BRADBURY.

The following extract from an article on idiocy, in the last number of the "Christian Examiner," will be considered important evidence, as the writer, Mr. G. B. Emerson, than whom no one is a more competent judge

in matters pertaining to education, speaks from his own knowledge and observation of the lad :—

" George Rowell, who knew nothing, could do nothing, observed not the first rules of decency, and was utterly helpless, and who, doubtless, under the usual system of neglect, would have remained so, or, as is universally the case with neglected idiots, would have become, if possible, worse, takes the visitor's hand, talks, articulating distinctly, and goes to the letter frame on the table, and not only selects and arranges the letters to spell any common short word, but without aid, selects and arranges the letters, and forms the sentence, *Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name* ;—divine words, which are now familiar to the eye, and which, if he continues to make the same progress, will soon, we may hope, reach the soul of the poor rescued child. This boy was lately allowed to make a short visit to his parents ; and when, at the expiration of the time, his teacher went to bring him home, the father began to thank him, and to tell him how much he was pleased with his progress. ' *George*, now,' he said, ' *plays* with the other boys ; he *plays like* the other boys.' He would have gone on, but he could only put his handkerchief to his eyes,—he could say no more."*

The complete success which has been obtained, by two years' training and instruction of this lad, is very gratifying and very important, because it establishes, beyond all question, the fact that even idiots of the lowest mind may be improved. The most sceptical person, who sees George, must pronounce him to be a born idiot ; and, if he pays a moment's attention, must confess

* Christian Examiner, January, 1851, p. 121.

that he manifests intelligence and capacity such as no uninstructed idiot, no idiot left to the ordinary course of life, ever could attain.

It is true that the class of pure idiots, to which **George** belongs, is small; it is true, also, that his organization is a remarkable one; the high nervous temperament, the fineness of which is so apparent in him, gives him great advantage. His dwarfed brain is so active, that it enables him to do what, with an ordinary one of the same size, he could not do. It is like a machine, which makes up in speed what it wants in power. Nevertheless, there he stands, redeemed from his degradation, claiming kindred for himself and his class with humanity; and if others can be elevated as much in five years as he has been in two and a half, they surely ought to be.

The second case is one selected from that larger class of persons, who are born with fair capacities, and who, under proper treatment, would manifest a fair share of intellect, but who have been badly managed, and become idiotic, or have been misunderstood, and considered idiotic. Indeed, the boy Clapp, already mentioned as having been so much improved as to be discharged and sent to a common primary school, was of this class; and so was the boy Clough, who was sent here as an idiot, but discharged as having too much intellect. These, however, were very favorable cases, and not fair specimens. The one I shall select, was a very bad case, and presented to common observers no hope of improvement.

Sylvanus J. Walker, of Worcester, mentioned in a former report, was about six years old when he entered, October 17, 1848.

He was a pitiful sight to behold. He could not stand or even sit erect. He had no command of his limbs, not

even so much as an infant of three months, for it can work its arms, and kick its legs vigorously ; this poor boy, however, could do neither, but laid almost like a jelly fish, as though his body were a mass of flesh without any bones in it. He could not even chew solid food, but had to be fed on milk, of which he consumed an inordinate quantity. The utmost he could do, in the way of motion, was to get his head propped up on one hand, and move the other feebly about.

He measured 40 inches in length ; his weight was 31 pounds ; his head of average size ; his temperament lymphatic. He seemed to hear, but his eyes were dull and without "speculation;" his other senses were quite inactive. He drivelled at the mouth, and his habits were in all respects like those of an infant. He was speechless, neither using nor understanding language, though he made several sounds, which seemed to be a feeble imitation of words.

Such was the unhappy and helpless condition of this poor boy ; and out of it there seemed no prospect of his emerging. His case seemed to be one of congenital idiocy ; but there are strong reasons for thinking that he had been injured by bad treatment. One instance of this was the fact that, soon after his birth, the nurse rubbed into his head a considerable quantity of rum, holding his head close to a stove, and rubbing it briskly to promote the absorption. It is well known that liquids can be absorbed into the system through the skin, and the effect of rum upon the brain of a new-born infant must have been bad.

The change and improvement that has taken place in this boy, is most remarkable and most gratifying. In the report of last year, he was thus noticed :—

" He has been bathed daily in cold water ; his limbs have been rubbed ; he has been dragged about in the

open air, in a little wagon, by the other boys ; his muscles have been exercised ; he has been made to grasp with his hands, and gradually to raise himself up by them. He was held up, and made to bear a little of his weight upon his lower limbs ; then a little more ; until, at last, to his great delight, he was able to go about alone, by holding on the wall, or to one's finger ; even to go up stairs, by clinging to the balusters. He can go around a large table, by merely resting one hand upon the edge of it. The like improvement has taken place in his habits. He is observant of decency ; he calls, when he wants any assistance ; he can sit at the table, and chew his food, and even feed himself pretty well.

"His cheeks begin to glow with color ; his eye is much brighter ; he gives attention to what is passing around him, and his whole countenance is more expressive of thought. His improvement of language is equally great ; he has learned many words, and can construct many simple sentences. His affections begin to be developed, and he manifests his attachment to persons by unmistakable signs. Such is the effect of a year's training ; and it is but the beginning, for this boy will doubtless go on improving, and advancing more rapidly for every step heretofore gained. He was put down on the list as an idiot of the lowest kind, for he was quite in an idiotic condition, nor was there any means of knowing his latent capacities. It will not be surprising, however, if he should be raised not only to the highest grade of idiots, or simpletons, but even lifted quite above that class. His case may prove to be one of those mentioned under the head of Classification, which are neglected, because, by mistake, they are included in a class generally deemed beyond the reach of the teacher's art."

During the last year, he has gone on improving. He is now decent in all his habits, and tidy in his appearance; his countenance is bright and pleasing; he can sit at table, and feed himself with knife and fork; and though he does not venture to go alone, his limbs not being quite strong enough, he can almost do it, and he walks about by holding on to one's finger.

All his senses have improved greatly; and he is so changed, generally, that he could hardly be recognized as the same being who, two years ago, incapable of sitting at a desk, used to lie upon a mattress in the school-room. The same writer in the *Christian Examiner*, already quoted, says of this case:—

“The boy, Sylvanus Walker, who, two years ago, had not learnt even to use any of his limbs, now sits, stands up, shakes hands, is pleased, and smiles, asks you how you do, and reads readily any part of a little book which was put into his hands less than three months ago, points out any word you ask for on the page, and does all this with so much pleasure, that when you are about to turn away from him, he asks to be allowed to read more, and eagerly reads to you his favorite passages.”

This boy is not now an idiot; nevertheless, he was in a state of idiocy, and, to all appearance, of hopeless idiocy, when we received him. He was considered one of the most unfavorable subjects that could be found, and taken because it was desired to have some of the worst as well as some of the best cases. He has agreeably disappointed us, and outstripped others, who were considered as more promising than he was.

May there not be scores of such cases among the hundreds of idiots in our Commonwealth, who are now left

in their brutishness, because they seem incapable of receiving instruction ?

Such are two of the most striking cases. Others might be mentioned, where the results have been most gratifying.

I consider this experiment, therefore, to have been entirely successful. It has demonstrated beyond question that, among those unfortunate human beings who are left to grovel in brutal idiocy, there are many who can be redeemed and elevated, and made to be comparatively intelligent, and happy, and useful. Here stand the rescued ones, living proofs of the power of education. Let even the most sceptical examine them closely ; their doubts will be removed. Let those who have disapproved the project as a vain and hopeless one, and those, also, who have ridiculed it as a presumptuous one, (for there have been both, and in high places, too,) let them come, and see whether they have not unwittingly been encouraging an abandonment of their fellow-beings, who might have been saved from a condition at which humanity shudders.

The period for which an appropriation was made has not yet expired, but it will have expired before the Legislature assembles again ; and, unless some measures are taken now to continue the enterprise, it must be abandoned for want of means. I would, therefore, earnestly ask, that a rigid examination of our school may be made, and when satisfactory evidence is obtained that the condition of idiots can be materially improved,—that they can be lifted out of the brutishness in which they grovel,—that they can be made decent, and industrious, and happy,—then that measures be taken at once to secure so desirable an end, and consummate such a truly Christian work. Let an institution be permanently established, for teach-

ing and training as many idiots as are capable of being improved. It is hard, indeed, to see upon what ground this can be refused. The State recognizes the right of all to an education; she provides it for ordinary children in the common Schools; she provides it for the deaf mutes, and for the blind, in institutions got up expressly for their use; and shall the idiots be excluded from participation in the boon which they, more than all others need, because they are the most unfortunate and the most helpless? Surely not; but, on the contrary, their claim should be considered all the stronger, because they have not the wit to urge, nor the power to enforce it. Their fate is entirely in our hands, and it is for us to say whether those among them who have latent capacities shall go down to the grave like the beasts that perish, or shall first learn to know and to love their "Father who is in heaven."

It would be needless, however, for me to repeat the considerations which plead for the establishment of a **PERMANENT SCHOOL AND ASYLUM FOR IDIOTS**. Such considerations will doubtless occur to enlightened and Christian lawgivers, who will desire to make the circle of the **CHARITIES OF THE STATE** wide and complete, so as to embrace every class of the unfortunate; not forgetting, moreover, that the sight of human beings in a state of neglected degradation, is always demoralizing to a community.

ARTICLE II.

LIFE OF DR. WOODWARD. *By GEO. CHANDLER,
M. D., Superintendent of the Massachusetts State
Lunatic Hospital.—Read at a Meeting of the Association
of Medical Superintendents of American Institutions for
the Insane, held at Philadelphia, May 22, 1851.*

Samuel Bayard Woodward was born in Torrington, Conn., June 10th, 1787. His father was a large, muscular, healthy man, of strong mental power and of a long lived race. His mother was a tall woman of rather delicate health, who lived to be about eighty years of age, although she manifested decided symptoms of phthisis for many years. She was a woman of sound judgment and of an active mind. Three or four of their children shewed symptoms of consumption and died in early life. Three brothers of Dr. Woodward lived to distinguish themselves—one as a Teacher in Yale College, and two as physicians in Middletown, Conn. Only one of whom now remains.

The early advantages of education enjoyed by Dr. Woodward were afforded by the common district school in his native village, and his father's office.

At that time Litchfield Co. was distinguished for its large number of men of literary talent. The law school at Litchfield and the eminent clergymen in the various towns, all had a tendency to stimulate the active mind of Dr. Woodward. The missionary E. H. Mills was his school mate and playfellow. A literary atmosphere cre-

ated by the association of intelligent persons, does not fail to instil into the minds of youth a wholesome and aspiring ambition.

As there was no medical school at that time in Conn., he began the practice of medicine under a license of the Medical Board of his own county. An honorary degree of Doctor in Medicine was afterwards conferred upon him by the faculty of Yale College.

At the age of four years he went, as was then the custom, to a pest house, and was inoculated with matter of small pox. He had the disease quite severely. What was remarkable in his case, was the fact of his having small pox twice afterwards. He took the disease from patients he attended. The second time he was feverish for a day or two, and had some two hundred pock. During his third attack, he had several pock on his hands while attending a man sick with small pox, and for whom he did much in the way of nursing. But this time he was not confined by it to the house.

At about thirty years old, he was severely sick with a low grade of fever, and was delirious; during which he refused to take food, under the impression that his children were given him to eat, and afterwards from thinking it wrong to eat, as there was not food enough on the earth to support the inhabitants. He said he was induced to take food by a stratagem of his father, who gave him water, saying to him that the Lord had made a great supply of water for all things, which seemed to him reasonable. When it was dark, his father added milk to the water. In this way he was sustained until the delusion passed off. In that sickness he labored under a disease of the organ of vision. Those in his sick chamber seemed to move with great velocity. Those coming towards him appeared to be coming so fast that they would

certainly dash against him. He requested them to move slowly. This fever left him with an enlarged leg, the veins of which were varicose. An ulcer came upon the ankle of this leg, which was open most of the time.

At the age of 35, he was afflicted with femoral hernia, the cure of which he credits to Dr. Hull's truss and an increase of adipose matter. After a turn of ill health, he was again afflicted with the hernia, and was finally relieved by Hull's truss and by regaining his former flesh.

While in the practice of medicine in Weathersfield, he for some years was associated with his brother Henry in the sale of drugs and medicines, who afterwards was in extensive practice in Middletown, Conn.

He was, after the Penitentiary was removed from Simsbury Mines to Weathersfield, the physician of it as long as he remained there. He then became aware that the prisoner was a man of like passions as others. The greater part of them the children of ignorance and misfortune. He found them as ready to be influenced by good motives judiciously applied as by bad,—that gratitude was as often manifested within the prison walls as out of them. He often remarked that the prisons contained but few of the great rogues.

Into his views of prison discipline, he introduced rewards for good conduct as well as punishment for bad. He classified the prisoners. For the well behaved, he abolished the parti-colored dress—supplied better food—gave amusements and a chance to earn by extra work something to carry away when their sentence was out. If they did well, reward them; but if they abused their privileges, they were returned to hard work, coarse fare and seclusion if necessary.

On a controversy that arose about the severity of the prison life in that prison, he, of course, took the side of

mercy to the prisoner. He advocated a more generous diet, and some change from day to day in it. He attributed the large amount of phthisis and diarrhea and dyspepsia, which occurred then to the coarse fare furnished the prisoners.

Kind treatment from the hands of his fellow man was, in his view, the only way to reform the prisoner. Harsh usage and degradation brought into activity only their baser passions.

In politics he was early imbued with the most liberal doctrines of democracy as taught in the days of Jefferson, by his father who stood out prominent as their advocate. Such principles actuated him ever afterwards; but his votes were of late cast for candidates of the whig party. He was decided and was always ready to advocate his principles, but never over strenuous in promulgating them. He kept aloof from party strife as much as he could and be decided. He rejected all political offices until his party claimed and demanded him as the only man in his Senatorial district who could receive the whole vote of the party. In 1830 he was elected and held a seat in the Senate of Connecticut. The next season he was called out of the State to the Hospital in Worcester. While connected with the Hospital, he did not go to the polls. Duty to the institution he thought, required him to take no active part in politics.

Early in his practice in Weathersfield, he held a commission as surgeon in the Militia.

Immediately on taking up his residence in Massachusetts, he was tendered by His Excellency the Governor, a commission of Justice of the Peace, which was renewed at the end of seven years.

After going to Worcester, he was almost daily engaged in some literary work; but much of what he wrote has

never been printed. He had numerous correspondents and he was prompt in his replies. His own relatives and family when absent from him were frequently communicated with. His ardent attachment to his friends, and his sympathies for their welfare, were promoted by frequent interchange of epistolary civilities.

But his printed literary labors are mostly comprised in his reports to the Trustees of the Hospital of which he had the superintendence for thirteen years—making in all about 600 pages of large octavo: a series of articles published some twelve years since in the Boston Mercantile Journal on the subject of an Asylum for inebriates: Hints to the young, on a subject forced upon his attention by a large number of its unhappy victims of both sexes, whose forlorn condition overcame his innate modesty on this subject, and induced him to publish for their warning these hints to the young: and after leaving the Hospital his report on the fruits of N. E., which was published in the doing of the Agricultural Society of Hampshire Co., Mass. Besides these, some minor articles of his have been printed.

He wrote and delivered several Lyceum Lectures.

His Hospital Reports were extensively circulated—3,000 copies being the standing order of the Legislature. Extracts from them have annually appeared in the several newspapers in the State of Mass., and some of the other States. These Reports contained many facts regarding the insane, gathered from 2,462 cases under his charge in the State Lunatic Hospital, and his deductions from them. No one at that early day had written so fully in making up annual reports of Institutions for the Insane as was his custom. He was at first induced to do so by the then Governor of the State, (John Davis.) It was justly urged by him, and was apparent to all who had

thought much upon the subject, that information as to the number of the insane in the community—their true character and their just wants, were very much needed.—Their numbers were not then known, for there was no inducement on the part of their friends to expose them. There had been in the community no peculiarly fitted accommodations for their relief or custodial care. But the relations were restrained by a sense of family pride and of kindness, to keep the unfortunate and, what to them perhaps seemed in some instances, God stricken member, secluded and as much unknown in the world as they could. The prevalent idea among the common people was that the insane were diseased in the immaterial part, and therefore beyond the art of man.

Doctor Woodward did much by the published reports to diffuse information and to awaken enquiry, which in a few years helped greatly to produce the wide-spreading results which we from the several Hospitals on this Continent represent.

Although he was not the pioneer in this department of philanthropic labor, fortunate circumstances early placed him in a favorable and commanding position, from whence his benevolent mind and ardent feelings enabled him annually to diffuse his growing experience and controlling influence on the subject of insanity. The actions of some of us are yet, I trust, sensibly affected by the motives he presented to us while living.

His style of writing was vigorous and glowing. He wrote to communicate his thought to others. He did not stop for ornament. His writings exhibit much of that earnestness and sincerity which he felt.

The idea of establishing a Hospital for inebriates was a cherished one with him. If not an original one, he did

much by his published essays in 1835 to call attention of philanthropists to it. The subject was, about 1830, brought by the Medical Society of Conn., before the Legislature of that State, and has since been agitated in the legislatures of two or more of the States—Mass. and N. Y.

He considered inebriety a disease primarily of the stomach; afterwards the brain became involved; and he supposed the disease always curable until organic changes took place in the brain, and the peculiar appetite for stimulus removable by time, medical and moral treatment.

From his experience in private practice, from observing the effect on many convicts in the State prison in Weathersfield, Conn., while physician there for several years, where it was the invariable rule to cut off all spirit rations on the prisoner's arrival, and from his observation on the intemperate insane brought to the Hospital under his charge, he believed it safe and judicious to remove at once the intoxicating cup from the inebriate. Some other stimulus he would, in desperate cases, substitute for the alcoholic for a short time. But alcohol, tobacco and opium he would never put in reach of the patient.

He thought much upon the subject of a Hospital for the inebriate, and had got his plans well matured. He conversed and corresponded with those interested.

He would have chosen a large tract of land for the establishment, in an intelligent community, as far removed as possible from alcoholic temptations. This temporary home of the inebriate he would have desired to have made as comfortable and as attractive as industry and taste could have made it. The building should be so arranged with accommodations for one hundred inmates; some part of which should be custodial for the security of such as had not self control. This family to

be employed in farming, horticulture and the mechanical arts, with various amusements to beguile weary hours.

The Doctor's plan was to reside in this family with such assistants as should seem necessary or desirable to manage and control them. With some statute laws passed for the purpose, he had great faith in his own ability to retain the individual members for one year or more, or until cured—until all appetite was gone, and until the patient had fully determined, and was fortified by correct information in his own mind of the dangers that beset him in the world, to resist the enemy.

It was his plan to use bars and all physical restraints but little—depending upon motives presented to the honor and judgment. He would first gain their confidence, and then inform them by conversation and lectures of their own constitutions, the effects of the use of stimulants upon them, and the means of cure.

The drunkard in his sober moments takes a correct view of his own case generally. He wishes to abandon his cups, and promises himself that he will never be overtaken again. But the periodical calls of his vitiated appetite and the persuasions of his companions, are more than he can resist. He not only requires for his safety the removal of all temptation, but the sympathies and constant encouragement of friends to overcome the cravings of his morbid appetite. This is the grand purpose of the proposed institution to supply—to help the inebriate get the mastery over his own stomach—surround the man with as many of the comforts of life as possible—place him among those who are seeking the same object, and under the guidance of those who are zealous and sanguine of success, and the happiest results would follow.

Relapses might be expected, as after recoveries from other diseases; but not much more frequently. Breath-

ing the air of temperance one year at least in such a community, and receiving lessons of wisdom on the two courses of life from one so able to counsel as he was, Dr. Woodward thought relapses would form only exceptions to the rule.

So strong was his belief in the feasibility and good working of his plans for the cure of the confirmed inebriate, that the Doctor was anxious to engage in the execution of them. He would have made great sacrifices of pecuniary means and personal comfort, to have done so. Wealthy men with benevolent hearts were consulted, to get up a private establishment, but their plans were not consummated. Could a small one even have been started, he would have resigned his charge of the Hospital where he was many years before he did, to have taken the direction of it.

His intercourse with the sick was so gentle, cheerful and winning, that he soon gained their confidence and love. He nourished their hopes of recovery, by holding up the bright side of their cases. They anticipated his visits with pleasure, as their physician and their friend. He recognized the influence of the mind over the physical functions, and, by his relation of agreeable stories and successful cases of a similar kind to theirs, he animated their hopes. He detected the leading symptoms of disease, discriminated them with great precision, and prescribed with boldness. He had great faith in the curative properties of medicine, and he used the various articles freely. His early practice was mostly among the inhabitants of the Valley of the Connecticut River, where it is supposed diseases are less benefited by the pure antiphlogistic treatment than they are on the hills of New England; consequently the lancet and the drastic cathartics were used by him less than by most other practitioners;

but the alteratives, narcotic and tonic remedies were freely and largely prescribed. After leaving his private practice, his attention was mostly confined to the insane and such chronic cases as consulted him at the Hospital; and for such cases, the remedies of the Connecticut Valley were found best adapted. Blood-letting he abandoned almost entirely after the first few years of his residence at the Hospital. Blisters were not often prescribed for the insane, because they irritated the patient so much, and drastic cathartics were beneficial, he thought, only in a small proportion of the insane. He tried with the insane the various articles of the *Materia Medica* in common use, and the new articles as they gained a popularity. But for common cases they were laid aside, for those he had found efficient and reliable. As alteratives he prescribed Mercurials, Guaiacum, Blood-root, Colchicum, Cohosh; as narcotics he used opium in its various forms, Conium, Stramonium, Hyoscyamus, Lupuline; and as tonics, Quinine, iron, wine.

For the sick he advised a more nourishing diet than the books prescribed. He thought relapses were less frequent when the fever patient took throughout the disease a full supply. He often said let the patient with fever take every day nourishment equal to one quart of rich milk porridge.

His success in the treatment of the insane, is fully recorded in his annual reports of the Hospital, with which he was connected.

In various chronic diseases, he was often consulted at the Hospital by those from abroad. In epilepsy he was often consulted, and he acquired considerable reputation for the cure of it. He could refer to several cases in which the fits had been suspended apparently by remedies he had prescribed. Some of these unfortunate per-

sons had the good fortune to indulge the hope that they had been effectually cured of epilepsy, through his means. His chief remedies were Extract of Stramonium and Nitrate of Silver, given largely and persevered in for a long time. Regularity of diet to be observed, and excesses of all kinds to be avoided.

His views of the various articles of *Materia Medica*, thought most efficient by him, were given in a lengthy article read by him before this Association.

He had none of the little arts and tricks of the quack about him to give himself importance with the sick or the vulgar. He dealt fairly and honestly with the sick and the well. He heartily despised deceit in every form. He gave no medicine as a placebo. He had full confidence in its virtues, and he prescribed medicine, in faith that results might be looked for in each case.

After leaving the Hospital, his time was fully occupied, mostly in professional matters. His pecuniary resources were ample for all his wants, and that of his family, which consisted of a most judicious and excellent wife and two affectionate daughters. His six sons were in a fair way of honourably supporting themselves.

Dr. Woodward, died quite suddenly, the evening of the third of January, 1850, at his pleasant residence in Northampton, Mass., to which place he retired with his family in July, 1846. The fatal stroke was supposed to be a rupture of a small aneurismal sack of the aorta just above the diaphragm. But he had for several weeks been mostly confined to his house with a peculiar disease of the bowels resembling colic. The pain was usually referred to the seat of the old hernia. For the last few

years he had suffered from repeated attacks of pain in the bowels attended with feverish symptoms. These turns lasted usually but a few days. But they increased in frequency, and in consequence of which he and his friends felt it to be his duty to himself and to his family, to retire from the services of the State Lunatic Hospital where he was evidently wearing himself out. One of the kidneys was the seat of the principal disease. The acute attacks of pain in the bowels he had been afflicted with for years, resembling colic, were probably caused by nephritic calculi, passing through the ureters. Several gall stones were found in the gall bladder. On one of so keen susceptibility of the nervous system as he was, these attacks are exquisitely painful.

It was strongly hoped that relief from these dangerous attacks would follow the relinquishment of his arduous duties at the Hospital. For six or eight years, they had been increasing in frequency and severity. Partial amendment of his general health had followed in two or three instances of temporary absence from his duties, but a feeling of responsibility would cling to him, and his mind would be engaged about the affairs of the Hospital, although his body was absent. As it was anticipated by his friends and himself, his health was better after leaving the Hospital, and engaging in the general practice of his profession, to which he was ardently devoted. But he found the slightest exposure or fatigue endangered a relapse of his malady. This led his professional brethren to fear organic lesions of important internal organs, which the sad result proved too true.

Doct. Woodward, early adopted the profession of his father, who was an eminent physician, and a most respectable man. At the age of twenty-one he received his li-

cense, and soon after located himself as a candidate for practice in the wealthy and populous town of Weathersfield, Conn. He had several competitors among the younger members of the profession. He went there, having the patronage of no one, while the other young men were one after another introduced by retiring physicians. By his studious habits, and prompt attention to all professional calls, he soon won the confidence of the community, so that the other young physicians sought other fields of practice, and he remained the sole physician for about three thousand people, for nearly twenty years. He let other business distract his attention as little as possible. But his office was for some years the great resort in that vicinity for young men who wished to enter the profession. It was his rule to attend to his students and hear their recitations in the morning before sun-rise. He seldom failed of being at his own house punctually at the hour of dining. This, country physicians think they cannot always do. This rule he found convenient in the way of meeting any business engagements, and in attending to those who wished to consult him in his office.

He was one of the Medical Examiners of the Medical School, in New-Haven, chosen by the State Medical Society.

He was efficient in establishing the Retreat at Hartford. He issued Circulars, and made the arrangements to collect the funds. He was one of the Medical Visitors of that institution, while he remained in that vicinity. He took credit to himself in having secured for it its present delightful location.

His attention was called to this special department of the profession, by the occurrence of several cases of in-

sanity in his own practice, and in that of his professional brethren, whose adviser he was. The difficulty of managing these cases in their private practice led Dr. Woodward, and his particular friend, Dr. Eli Todd, to take the first step towards the establishment of the Retreat.

Some negotiations took place for placing him in charge of that institution for the insane, but these he over-ruled in favor of Dr. Todd; and to whom he always referred as the wisest manager of the insane, and the one who first carried out most fully the modern reform in their treatment—the law of love and kindness. Afterwards some steps were taken to connect Dr. Woodward, with the Bloomingdale Asylum, N. Y. He was thus early known as one of the few physicians who had paid particular attention to the subject of insanity.

Such was the state of affairs when the first Board of Trustees of the State Lunatic Hospital at Worcester, most fortunately for the honor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and for the welfare of the poor insane, tried to obtain the services of Dr. Todd, in the management of their Hospital. Dr. Todd, declined engaging in the undertaking himself, but knowing the man, and his extraordinary qualifications for the place, at once recommended Dr. Woodward, to their favorable consideration, and, when appointed Superintendent, urged him to accept the office. He was appointed Superintendent in September, 1832, and went to Worcester in December following, and moved into the Hospital as soon as rooms could be finished and furnished for the reception of his family.—On the 19th of January, 1833, the first patient was brought to the Hospital, while the mechanics were still at work upon the interior. He retired on the 30th of June, 1846, after having spent more than thirteen years

of the best portion of his life in the laborious and perplexing duties of the Hospital.

He was a noble specimen of his race, and had many qualifications, which peculiarly fitted him for the office of Superintendent of a hospital for the Insane. His personal appearance was commanding, and his carriage was truly majestic. His stature was six feet, two and one half inches, and, without the deformity of obesity, his weight was about two hundred and sixty pounds. He was erect, and, though full in his figure, his motions were quick and graceful. Although very civil and accessible to all, he seemed born to command. Dignity, and ever-enduring cheerfulness sat upon his countenance, and betokened the serenity and the happy state of the feelings within. Several of his elderly personal friends have mentioned to the writer, that they had often been struck with the close resemblance of Dr. Woodward, in his physical man, to that of the "Father of his Country."

Dr. Woodward was well fitted to commence the then almost new department of philanthropic labor of ameliorating the condition, and curing the insane, when congregated in large masses. His education, his experience on the subject of insanity, his ardent temperament, his business habits, his knowledge of men, his benevolent spirit, his habit of looking upon the bright side of human nature, his perseverance and his noble personal appearance, all conspired to sustain and carry him through, successfully, an undertaking beset with manifold difficulties.

His powers of observation were great, and he readily understood the characters of men with whom he came in contact, and he quickly perceived the true relation of things. He was systematic in his business, and ener-

getic in the execution of his plans. He was industrious and untiring in his labors.

In his intercourse with others he was dignified, courteous, and pleasing; he was very social, and soon gained the confidence of those around him. The insane, as well as the sane, were always gratified by being in his presence.

His mind was of an eminently practical cast. Whatever he had learned from books, or from the observation of nature, was always at his command. He was apt and full in illustrations drawn from his experience. His temperament was sanguine, ardent, and cheerful,—never desponding; he remarked, when his buoyant feelings were alluded to, that he "always felt cheerful." He had a remarkable power of sympathising with others in their feelings, of communing with their minds, and of controlling their actions.

By his labors at the State Lunatic Hospital and in his annual reports thereof, he did much to disseminate correct views on the subject of insanity in this country, and to improve the management of the insane. He favored such of the benevolent movements of the day as tended to improve and elevate the condition of his fellow men.

By a large circle of persons now in the use and enjoyment of sound minds, he will be particularly and affectionately remembered, as the honored instrument of the recovery of themselves. By all who were any way associated with him in business or pleasure, he will be remembered as the wise counsellor, and most agreeable companion; by those who shall come after us, he will be regarded as one of the noblest benefactors of his day.

That his value was appreciated by his friends, and by the Board of Trustees of the Hospital, at Worcester, in their private capacity, was manifest in their obtaining at

a cost of about One hundred and fifty dollars, by one of the best artists of the day, (Frothingham, of Brooklyn, New-York,) a portrait of him, to be always kept in the Hospital with which his fame is so intimately associated. He was at the time fifty-two or three years old, with physical powers in full vigor, and mental powers well matured. This portrait is a correct likeness of one who has done the State that adopted him imperishable honor. It is hoped that this likeness will be never removed from the Institution where its original, for more than thirteen years, labored so successfully to string anew the jarring sense of his fellow-man, but will remain as an honorable testimonial of his public labors.

A bust of Dr Woodward, cut from a beautiful block of Caracara marble, by J. C. King, at a cost of about Seven hundred dollars, contributed by many of the citizens of Worcester, (to be kept in that Hospital also,) bears testimony to the value with which his labors were prized, and his memory cherished in that community. The bust is an exact figure of the original as he was when he lived, and swayed, with his noble mind, that vast household.

ARTICLE III.

MELANCHOLIA: REMARKS BY A PATIENT ON HIS OWN CASE, AFTER RECOVERY. *Communicated, with the consent of the writer, by DR. FONERDEN, of the Maryland Hospital for the Insane.*

The following letter was written in the spring of the year 1850, to a patient affected with melancholia, by a well educated gentleman, who was himself long a sufferer in the same state of mind. In the fifty-second year of his age he resided nearly five months, namely from October 1846 to March 1847, in an Asylum. He was then removed to his family; but this course was not followed by a restoration to peace of mind. In the month of April 1848, he was an inmate in another Asylum, and sojourned there until the month of July 1849, when he was again removed to his family, "at," he says, "his own solicitation, and that of an old friend who could properly appreciate his condition." On this occasion the re-entrance into his home was followed by a most happy change of mental experience. In the interval which has since elapsed, he has been steadily employed, with progressive success, in complicated business pursuits, in the cultivation of letters, and in the cultivation of family and social recreations.

"Having had occasion lately to write to our mutual and excellent friend I requested him to give me in his reply to my letter some account of yourself; not, you will, I am confident, believe, from idle curiosity, but from an earnest desire, to receive such a report of the condition, and prospects of an old and valued friend and associate, with whom congeniality in affliction and suffering had established a fellow-ship in sorrow, as would enable me to offer him my congratulations in the event of his happy restoration to his family, or, if the reverse, my sincere sympathy and condolence.

"I had too another motive, on which I now rely for your kind reception of this letter, and for my exoneration from any thing approaching an imputation of indelicate or improper trespass on your feelings. Profoundly versed as I am, from terrible experience, in the mysteries of the human heart, and familiar with grief, I have imagined a communication from me would speak to you in a tone of peculiar harmony, and afford you, not only ground for consolation, but food for hope.

"You cannot have suffered more than I have endured. You cannot be passing through a more terrible ordeal than I have sustained, and you cannot have had life more completely stripped of its charms and allurements than mine has been, and yet I have survived what would be horrible even to dream of, and am once more at home, composed, contented, useful and often happy,—more beloved than ever by my wife, more idolized by my children, equally respected by those whose regard I care for, and perfectly independent of such as may see proper to consider me as less than I was when their flatteries and attentions could gratify or deceive me.

"To what, you will ask, is this wonderful change from a condition of hopeless despondency to be attributed?—

To the skill of my physician? to the discipline of an asylum, to the privation for upwards of a year, of all that constituted existence a blessing; to exile from all that rendered life desirable, to associations too shocking to contemplate, to companionship revolting to my nature, feelings, habits and education?

"Certainly not—on the contrary such a violation of all my sensibilities was rapidly producing the effect to be expected from it, and when the providential intervention of Mr. . . . offered me a ray of hope, a chance of escape from such bitter thraldom, I had become indifferent to life, and would have welcomed death as a blessing. He had the good sense to perceive, what I had for some time vainly endeavored to make my family, or my physician comprehend; that I was suffering from my situation, and not from any morbid or distempered view of my circumstances, and that whatever may have been the first cause of my affliction, its effects were sufficient to make me unhappy, and relief only to be looked for in restoration to my family, and to such pursuits as accorded with my tastes and inclinations.

"I could promise little more than composure at home; for my energies of mind and body had been so long denied the means and opportunity of exercise, that I had become doubtful of their capabilities;—but I was confident in the strength and soundness of my affections, and relied on them to sustain me in the trial I knew awaited me on my return to society and its requisitions. I knew what I had lost, in the world's regard, and that it was irrecoverable; but I was not unmindful of what was left, and hoped it would be rendered more precious by concentration. That home, and its inmates, its duties and enjoyments, would be sufficient to fill a heart, no longer permitted to throb with ambition, and circumscribed in

many of the prerogatives and aspirations, which once influenced its action; and to occupy and exercise a mind too conscious of the consequences of the imputation that has been cast upon it, to endeavor to resume its former station or privileges. In a word, I determined to bury in oblivion not only the pains, but the pleasures, the hopes, the motives of the past; to live, as regarded myself, entirely in the present; to contemplate the future of this life, only as it concerns my children, to transfer to them, as far as is possible, every desire, every gratification, every intention of my own existence, to make their happiness, and advancement the sole aim of my being; reserving to myself not one selfish consideration; not even the least of those, the most devoted and anxious parent, under ordinary circumstances, is permitted to indulge in;—to be a stoic to myself, but not such to them, or to those who continued to regard me with interest or affection.

"Such, my dear . . . was the plan I had formed to enable me to occupy a place, once more, in the great social system, and paradoxical as it may appear, I have found it less difficult in practice than ever I had imagined. It has enabled me to perform wonders, not the least of which is to have established a truce with Thought, so long my most active and formidable enemy, but now that I have arrayed against her all the resources of my mind and genius, too incessantly occupied in meeting their demands, to find time, or opportunity to invade the heart, or harass the feelings. She is now, if not my friend, at least a useful agent, and when I find her disposed to be otherwise, or to take advantage of a moment of leisure, or repose, I immediately set her some new task, which works a diversion to my advantage. My pen, my pencil, my books, my shrubberies, my mechanical inventions and

employments, for I execute my own designs in the ornamental departments of my homestead; my flocks, among which I fill a shepherd's office, the restoration of my estate to its former condition; my friends, but above all my children, are substantial objects to occupy and engage her, and leave but little time for abstractions in the interval, from daylight to bed time devoted to the former, or inclination to indulge in the latter, during the silent watches of the night, when "tired nature" seeks and finds repose.

"Nor have I found myself such an anomaly in that system, as I apprehended I would be considered. My friends are as respectful, as cordial as ever; as regardful of my feelings, as deferential to my opinions; in my business-transactions, which are manifold and important, the same confidence and facilities are extended to me as of old; in my family I fill my natural province, and am lord of home.

"And why should it be otherwise, with me?—why otherwise with you?—Why permit Thought to play the tyrant, when we can make her a companion, an assistant, a friend; not by unprofitable warfare, or unavailing contest, but by expedients, which cheat her into amity, and deceive her, as well perhaps as ourselves, into peace.—Better to supply her with wholesome nutriment, even to excess, than allow her, like the green eyed monster of the poet, to make the food she feeds on, and grow vigorous and fertile, only to torment us. Better to keep her in subjection to useful, nay even frivolous occupations, than afford her leisure we know she will abuse, and which will be every thing but repose to her, to ourselves, or to those we love, who watch, with fearful anxiety, every gleam that passes over our brows; and reflects its lights, or shadows, from their own.

"Believe me, my old friend, these though stern and difficult tasks are not impossible to any man, capable of estimating his situation and determined to make the best of it; nay more, to avoid falling into worse; to one who can set steadily before him such an alternative as we have escaped from, and which to me is more horrible than death, for it has not the possibility of repose; to one, who has the power to choose between home, its enjoyments, and endearments, and exile, under circumstances which add to its desolation the sense of degradation, and alienation from our kind.

"To accomplish them we must endeavor to be, not what we were, for that is impossible, but something else, better perhaps, wiser, resigned, if not happy. We must abandon the wreck of former hope, and embark in a craft suited to the voyage before us; reserving only from the stores of the past such provision of experience, fortitude, energy, and forbearance, as will aid in its prosecution and success; while we cast away, as unavailing now, what would once have amused and beguiled us in its progress. We have no longer "Joy at the helm, and pleasure at the prow," but duty is to be our steers-man, the welfare of others our object, and self must ply the oar, and trim the sail, until we reach the haven of peace to ourselves, and leave to their own abilities and exertions, the crew we have guided and protected, and to whom our counsels and examples should teach, while we may, lessons that will enable them to avoid the shoals and quicksands which beset the path they will have to travel: nor will the voyage be to us devoid of interest, or gratification. The consciousness of being useful will have its reward in self-approbation, and we cannot dispense happiness without some portion of it falling to our share, in the reflection that we are the authors of it. We

may regret, and it is perfectly natural we should, the blight that has fallen on our own hopes, but why desire to communicate it to others, and to shroud in grief countenances we may lighten up with smiles? We do not lessen our own afflictions by so doing, we rather increase them; for we disqualify those who love us from ministering to our comforts, and compel them to bestow on their own sorrows the means they might employ to alleviate and beguile ours. Is it not wiser, therefore, to hide in our "heart of hearts" afflictions which are irremediable,—to close our lips to complaints that cannot be mended,—to eschew thoughts which lead to no result but pain,—to conquer desires we cannot realise, and abandon pursuits no longer designed for us, than to look through the vistas of the past upon departed pleasures, and forfeited enjoyments, and call them up only to array them in painful contrast to the bereavements that cloud the avenues of the future.

"Is it not better to determine that home shall be our world, wife and children our society; and while duty is our pleasure, their smiles and notes of gladness our reward. Such are these to me, and instead of allowing my children, and especially the younger, to perceive that I wear a serpent in my breast, I invent and exhaust every expedient I can think of to interest and amuse them, and have already compelled them to acknowledge they know not how they lived so long without me. They are my constant companions; we ramble the fields together, visit our flocks, where they have their pet lambs, and favorites, to attend to and boast of, or they amuse me with their prattle, and tales of incidents that occurred during my absence, while I am at work on some contrivance for their comfort or amusement, during my hours of leisure from the business of my farm. With the elder I

have had to form almost a new acquaintance, though I had never become a stranger to their affections, and for them I am required to call into action all my resources of instruction and entertainment, more valuable and acceptable to them in our retired situation, where we are dependent on ourselves for intellectual and social enjoyment, and to which the advantages of education, travel, and early associations enable me to contribute largely. We have our daily avocations and duties, which make the time to glide by, while we are scarce aware of its passage; and at night we assemble round the table, and have books, games, anecdotes, and adventures, to render our evenings agreeable, and recreate our minds and bodies for the plans and pursuits of the morrow.

"All this, and more, have I obtained, and hope to secure to myself, by the exercise of self-control, under circumstances as trying as ever fell to the lot of man, by making THOUGHT subject to my will, and by having acquired the power of directing and binding her to such objects as interest and gratify me, and of compelling her to avoid those of contrary character, which would only occasion me useless agitation and annoyance, though I do not exempt her from deliberation, even though it be attended with perplexity, and often unpleasant exercise, in transactions of a business nature. I do not make her a spoilt child, and allow her to play the truant, but keep her diverted in her moments of leisure, to prevent her running into mischief.

"This habit, for it is no more, and like all other habits may be acquired by practice, is from Mr. . . . 's report of you, all you need, to restore you to comparative content, and almost to happiness; to relieve your family and friends from painful anxiety; to create smiles, where you now perhaps only perceive looks of solicitude and sadness.

"I once despaired of obtaining it as much as you can, and were you at my elbow, even you would smile, as I often do myself, at the efforts and expedients I resorted to to acquire it. I attempted poetry, and have spent a whole day on an appropriate word, to complete a rhyme, and was surprised, when night came, to find it had been a day of exemption from affliction. I drew pictures, and when I had rubbed my paper through, before I had got the portrait to my mind, had to confess it was better to waste it than allow reflection to fritter away in my own heart. I whittled sticks, and when I threw them into the fire, was forced to acknowledge it was wiser to consume them, than to give my own feelings to an element equally fierce and devouring. I went abroad, and found, while I was cheating myself, I was interesting, amusing, nay often instructing others. I was courted and caressed by strangers, only because of my capacity to gratify and serve them, and I began to think if I could be the same at home, from no better motives, I would be a gainer myself in the change, as regarded personal considerations, and of advantage to objects there, entitled to the employment of my abilities. The result has, thus far, exceeded my expectations, and if, in giving it to you, I have laid your patience under heavy penalty, let me hope it will have gone no further, and incurred your displeasure.

"Trifles have often greater influence over human destiny than we are willing, in our days of pride and prosperity to admit, and I have lived to satisfy myself, if not to convince others, that the "*vive la bagatelle*" of the French is, in some cases and circumstances, worth more than all the maxims embodied and set forth by ancient or modern essayists or philosophers. Under this impression I have ventured to impart to you the sources from which

I have derived support and consolation in terrible affliction ; and if you would add to the favor of perusal a reply to my letter, essay or homily, as you may see proper to regard it, you will afford a two fold pleasure to your old and sincere friend and well wisher. . . .

"Pray overlook and excuse interlineations and erasures. I would rather write fifty letters than copy one, and have moreover two impatient children at my elbow, wondering when this long letter will be finished, and their Pa be at liberty to devote himself to them."

ARTICLE IV.

TYPHO-MANIA. By A. V. WILLIAMS, M. D., *Late Visiting Physician to the New-York City Lunatic Asylum, on Blackwell's Island, and President of the Medical Board of the Emigrants' Hospital on Ward's Island.*

To the Editor of the American Journal of Insanity :

DEAR SIR: The following copy of a communication, written, as I am assured, away from home at the bed side of a patient, in fulfillment at the last moment of a deferred promise, was received by mail, while attending the late annual meeting of the Association of Medical Superintendents of American Institutions for the Insane ; and whether wholly verified by time and further observation or not, the views it contains, though very hastily expressed, were deemed by the members of the Associa-

tion present, to have an important bearing upon the interesting form of disease to which they relate, and I send it to you for publication, for the consideration of absent members and others.

It may be mentioned here, as pertinent to Dr. Williams' views, that Dr. Brigham, in his work on the brain, expresses his belief, that that organ "is primarily affected" in idiopathic fever, and that the primary disease is "probably functional," and appears to consist in such a "loss or change of vitality or natural energy of the brain, that it ceases to supply the other parts of the system with their due proportion of nervous fluid or energy." Now if the "delirium and disease of the bowels" in typhus and typhoid fevers are "consequences of a primary affection of the brain," as Dr. B. thinks, is it not reasonable to infer that, as one of the protean variations which almost every disease will at different times assume, the delirium may show itself as almost the first evidence of indisposition, and, becoming more intense and protracting itself longer than ordinary, supersede the development of intestinal lesions and the usual course and many of the usual phenomena of typhus?

C. H. N.

Bloomingdale, New York, May 20th, 1851.

MY DEAR DOCTOR:

As you request, I will write you some account of that form of Insanity, which in our conversations and in my reports, I have denominated Typho-mania, from the striking typhoid character of the physical symptoms it exhibits and the corresponding treatment required for its cure. I do not, however, consider it a new form of disease. It was strongly placed before me whilst acting as Visiting-Physician to the New-York City Asylum on

Blackwell's Island. It prevailed amongst Irish Emigrants newly arrived, who had been exposed to the influence of Ship Fever, and suffered from the privations of a long sea voyage.

Every one who has had charge of an Asylum, for any length of time, will recollect to have had patients brought to him in a state of raving, incoherent madness, when the physical sufferings were so great as to strike the attention more forcibly even, than the mental condition. The bodily disease or prostration is so great that the question we ask ourselves is, will the patient live? As far as my knowledge extends, this form of insanity is not described in any of the systematic works on mental disease, but it is occasionally alluded to in Reports. Dr. Bell has written an interesting paper upon it, and Dr. Ranney described it in a paper on the Insanity of Foreign paupers, which was read before the Association of Medical Superintendents of Insane Asylums, at its annual meeting in 1850.

In the year 1848 a number of these cases were admitted into the City Asylum on Blackwell's Island, and the large majority of them were females recently landed. From a patient of this class, typhus was introduced into that Institution, and the same year the same thing happened at the Bloomingdale Asylum. These circumstances, together with the appearance of the disease, tended to confirm me in the view that the exciting cause of it was typhus poison. You suggested, as the reason why Dr. Bell had seen more of this malady than the other members of the Association, that he lived in a region where typhus prevails. If the typhoid fevers of New-England are identical with the typhus of Europe (our Ship Fever), which is held by high authority to be the case, your conjecture may be correct.

Since my connection with the Emigrants' Hospital on Ward's Island, I have seen this disease in its commencement. The patient would perhaps exhibit mere irritability and become quarrelsome in the wards, when I have been asked to see him, and have detected the real state of the case, and despatched him to the Asylum, where the disease would run its course. One remarkable feature of this disease is, that when patients recover from it, they do so completely, and not by the gradual return to reason, as in ordinary mania. When this has not been the case, I have learned from some patients after a more protracted recovery, that they have labored under mania before.

In the early stage of the disease there will be heat of skin, quick pulse, furred tongue, foetid breath, the odor of typhus, red eyes, generally constipated bowels, loss of appetite and great thirst. The mental symptoms are those of some persons in a state of intoxication verging towards stupor. They talk wildly and incoherently with general hallucinations, without any fixed delusions. If you arrest their attention, they will answer correctly but impatiently, and hurry off in their wild frolics, hallooing, shouting, singing and tearing their clothes. If drink is given, they gulp it down in the same hurry, and if they can be prevailed upon to take food, swallow it without mastication—bolting it like a famished dog. The mental excitement does not subside with the heat of the skin and febrile disturbance, but sometimes when the skin is cool and the pulse small and feeble, they will rave most. In these cases, if depletion should be resorted to, I doubt not the result would be fatal.

With regard to treatment I have only to observe, that it has been in accordance with the views I entertain of its nature, and has been that adapted to typhus fever, except as it might require modifications in particular cir-

cumstances. After the first stage I have found great benefit from Morphine; keeping the patient under its influence, combined with tonics, until it run itself out. Tartar Emetic Ointment applied to the neck and between the shoulders, has also been of great service.

In the autopsies I have witnessed, the sinuses and veins of the brain and its membranes have been loaded with dark blood; there has also been a congested state of the veins of the abdominal viscera. The brain itself has sometimes been softened, and there have also been effusions into the cavity of the cranium.

I do not recollect a case of Typho-mania that ended in dementia. Three years since, a lady after returning from a visit to her friends in Connecticut, was attacked with typhus fever, and in the second week of the disease that peculiar form of insanity set in from which in a short time she completely recovered.

I think Dr. Bell remarks, that in some of his patients there was a suicidal propensity, and that by starvation. This I have not observed, their aversion to food arising from the want of appetite and absolute loathing. In the worst cases they could be induced to swallow food, but in the rapid manner I have before mentioned.

If opportunity offers, I will examine Peyer's glands, to see whether they are affected in this disease. Dr. Ranney states that he has never seen petechiæ, although I do not consider the eruptions essential to constitute typhus. They are generally present, but frequently so few in number that they may escape observation.

I hope this hasty sketch may excite the Members of your Association to further investigation.

Yours truly,

A. V. WILLIAMS.

CHAS. H. NICHOLS, M. D.,

Physician to Bloomingdale Asylum, New-York City.

ARTICLE V.

LEGISLATION FOR THE INSANE.

The following act was passed, during the last winter, by the General Assembly of Rhode Island, and embodies some of the provisions relative to the confinement of the insane in hospitals, and their discharge therefrom, contained in the proposed act of Dr. Ray, which was read before the Association of Superintendents of Hospitals for the Insane, at their meeting in Boston last year, and published in this Journal, of July, 1850. We believe it is the first time that the confinement of the insane by their friends, was ever legalized by an act of the legislature. We trust, however, it will not be the last, and that this necessary measure will ere long be regulated in every community by express provisions of law that will secure the rights and promote the welfare of all parties. It will be observed, upon comparison, that the efficiency of the present act has been somewhat impaired by omitting some important provisions in the proposed law, viz : the sixth, seventh, ninth, and tenth sections. This certainly is acting the play with the part of Hamlet left out, but we are not to scrutinize too closely the wisdom of State Legislatures.

An Act in relation to the Butler Hospital for the Insane.

Sec. 1. Insane persons in this State may be removed to and placed in the Butler Hospital for the Insane, by their legal guardians, by their relatives or friends, in case they have no guardians: and if paupers, by the proper authorities of the towns or cities to which they are chargeable. But the Superintendent of said hospital shall not receive any person into his custody, under the provisions of this section, without a certificate from some physician that such person is insane.

Sec. 2. Insane persons may be placed in said hospital, by order of any Judge of the Supreme Court, after the following course of proceedings, viz : on a statement in writing of any respectable person that a certain person is insane, and that the welfare of himself or others requires his restraint, it shall be the duty of such Judge immediately to appoint a commission, which shall inquire into, report to said Judge upon the facts in the case, expressing an opinion either for or against the contemplated confinement. If the former, the Judge shall issue his warrant for such disposition of the insane person as will secure the desired object; if the latter, he shall dismiss the application. The commission herein provided for shall consist of three persons. In their inquiries they shall hear such evidence as may be offered touching the merits of the case, as well as the statements of the party complained of, or of his counsel, who shall have reasonable notice of the proceedings. And the said Judge is authorized to have the party complained of placed in suitable custody while the inquisition is pending, and also to order his arrest, if he fail to appear before the commission.

Sec. 3. On a written statement being addressed by some respectable person, to a Judge of the Supreme Court, that a certain person then confined in said hospital, is not insane, and is unjustly deprived of his liberty, the Judge shall appoint a commission of the number of persons prescribed in the preceding section, who shall hear such evidence as shall be offered touching the merits of the case ; shall hold conversation with the confined person ; and from evidence, conversation and interview with him, endeavor to discover the true state and condition of his mind ; and shall report the proceedings to the said Judge by whom they are appointed. And if, in their opinion, the party named in the complaint is not insane, the said Judge shall issue an order for his discharge.— But nothing contained in this act shall be deemed or considered as impairing, or in any manner abridging the rights of any person in said hospital as secured to him by the Constitution, by the writ of habeas corpus, or by any existing law of this State.

Sec. 4. This act shall not in any manner impair or interfere with the existing law of the State relative to committing by justices of the peace to said hospital any persons adjudged, as lunatics or previously mad, to be unsuitable to be at large, or discharging such persons as provided for by law.

Sec. 5. Any person committed to the charge of the Superintendent of said Butler Hospital, in either of the modes prescribed in the first and second sections of this act, may be legally received and legally detained by him, his keepers and servants, in said hospital, until discharged by one of the modes provided for in this act ; and

neither the said Superintendent, his servants or keepers, nor the trustees or agents of the corporation, shall be liable for so receiving or detaining any patient so committed to, or detained in said hospital.

ARTICLE VI.

STARTLING FACTS FROM THE CENSUS.

[From the *New-York Observer*.]

Messrs. Editors—In the interesting article on the increase of our population, published in your paper of June 12th, you remark in the words of *The Commercial*: “Either the free colored population are voluntarily emigrating at a rate beyond what is generally supposed, or there is something in their social condition that is entirely inimical to their physical prosperity.”

Many arguments might be adduced to prove that the latter, and not the former alternative is the real fact.—And as a remarkable illustration of this truth, I send you a copy of a few items from a statistical table which I compiled some years ago from the U. S. Census of 1840, and published in a country newspaper, without obtaining much notice, although it exhibits, in a most striking light, the amazing prevalence of insanity and idiocy among our free colored population over the whites and the slaves.

It is a matter of regret, that the U. S. Census of 1840, groups both these classes of unfortunates together, as if they were involved in one and the same calamity. And it is also to be regretted that there is no discrimination of the prevalence of these maladies among the free blacks and the slaves. The writer made an effort to have these imperfections obviated in taking the late census in 1850; but he has reason to apprehend, from what he has seen of the returns, that his feeble voice did not engage the attention of the "Commissioners" who were intrusted with the responsible duty of preparing the forms; though they solicited suggestions from those who felt an interest in the subject.

The census of our own State, taken in 1845, carefully distinguishes between idiots and lunatics; from which it appears, that their ratio in the State of New-York is about 4 to 5, or more nearly 16 to 21, on the whole population; but it makes no distinction between the white and colored population in regard to the existence of these maladies. It is obvious, however, from the following schedule, that there is an awful prevalence of idiocy and insanity among the free blacks over the whites, and especially over the slaves. Who would believe, without the fact, in black and white, before his eyes, that *every fourteenth colored person in the State of Maine is an idiot or lunatic?* And though there is a gradual improvement in their condition, as we proceed west and south, yet it is evident that the free States are the principal abodes of idiocy and lunacy among the colored race.

STATISTICAL TABLE FROM THE U. S. CENSUS OF 1840.

States.	Total White populat'n	Insane and Idiots.	Proportion	Total Color'd popula.	Insane and Idiots.	Proportion
Maine	500,438	537	1 in 950	1,355	94	1 in 14
New-Hampshire.....	224,036	486	1 " 584	538	19	1 " 28
Massachusetts.....	729,030	1,071	1 " 662	8,669	200	1 " 43
Vermont.....	291,218	398	1 " 731	730	13	1 " 56
Connecticut.....	301,856	498	1 " 606	8,159	44	1 " 185
Rhode Island.....	105,587	203	1 " 520	3,243	13	1 " 249
New-York	2,378,890	2,116	1 " 1,108	50,031	194	1 " 257
New-Jersey.....	351,588	369	1 " 952	21,718	73	1 " 293
Pennsylvania.....	1,676,115	1,946	1 " 861	37,952	187	1 " 256
Delaware.....	58,561	52	1 " 1,126	19,524	28	1 " 697
Maryland.....	317,717	387	1 " 821	151,515	141	1 " 1,074
Virginia	740,968	1,052	1 " 704	498,829	381	1 " 1,309
North-Carolina	484,870	580	1 " 835	268,549	221	1 " 1,215
South-Carolina	259,084	376	1 " 689	335,314	137	1 " 2,440
Georgia.....	407,695	294	1 " 1,387	283,697	134	1 " 2,117
Ohio	1,502,022	1,195	1 " 1,257	17,345	165	1 " 105
Kentucky	590,253	795	1 " 742	189,575	180	1 " 1,053
Louisiana.....	158,457	55	1 " 2,873	193,954	45	1 " 4,310

In the preceding list, I have aimed to give a view of this subject on the territory occupied by the 13 original States. I have added Ohio and Kentucky merely to show that the same contrast between the old free and slave States exists in the new. Ohio and Kentucky, though contiguous to each other, and of nearly equal age, exhibit the same amazing difference. In the former, there are just 10 colored persons who are idiots or lunatics, where there is one in the latter.

And in Louisiana, where a large majority of the population is colored, and *four-fifths* of them slaves, there is but one of these poor unfortunates to 4,310 who are sane. In fact, the want of sense or reason appears to be a rare visitation upon those who are held in slavery. This is an ample theme for the speculations of the physiologist and the moralist.

ARTICLE VII.

1. *Eighteenth Annual Report of the Trustees of the State Lunatic Hospital, at Worcester, December, 1850.* Boston, 1851.
2. *State of the New-York Hospital and Bloomingdale Asylum, for the year 1850.* New-York, 1851.
3. *Report of the Board of Trustees of the Massachusetts General Hospital, presented to the Corporation, at their Annual Meeting, January, 1851.* Boston, 1851.
4. *Twelfth Annual Report of the Directors and Superintendent of the Ohio Lunatic Asylum, to the forty-ninth General Assembly of the State of Ohio, for the year 1850.—Columbus, 1851.*
5. *Report of the Board of Visitors of the Boston Lunatic Hospital, containing a statement of the condition of that Institution, and transmitting the Annual Report of the Superintendent, for 1850.* Boston, 1850.
6. *Fourth Annual Report of the Officers of the New-Jersey State Lunatic Asylum, at Trenton, for 1850.* Trenton, 1851.
7. *Report of the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane, for the year 1850.* By Thomas S. Kirkbride, M. D., Physician to the Institution. Published by order of the Board of Managers. Philadelphia, 1851.
8. *Reports of the Trustees and Superintendent of the Butler Hospital for the Insane, presented to the Corporation, at their Annual Meeting, January, 23, 1851.* Providence, 1851.

9. *Thirty-Fourth Annual Report of the State of the Asylum, for the relief of persons deprived of the use of their reason. Published by direction of the Contributors. Third Month, 1851.* Philadelphia, 1851.
10. *Annual Report of the Commissioners and Medical Superintendent of the Hospital for the Insane, to the General Assembly for the State of Indiana.* Indianapolis, 1850.
11. *Twenty-Third Annual Report of the President and Directors of the Western Lunatic Asylum, (Virginia,) 1850.* (Legislative Document.)
12. *Second Biennial Report of the Trustees of the Illinois State Hospital, for the year 1849-50.* (Legislative Document.)
13. *Report of the Trustees, Steward and Treasurer, and Superintendent of the Maine Insane Hospital, 1851.* Augusta, 1851. (Legislative Document.)
14. *The Twenty-Seventh Annual Report of the Officers of the Retreat for the Insane, at Hartford, Conn.* April, 1851. Hartford, 1851.
15. *Eighth Annual Report of the Managers of the State Lunatic Asylum of the State of New-York, made to the Legislature, Feb. 27, 1851.* Albany, 1851.

With the lapse of another year, we again receive the reports of Asylums, and in conformity to the plan previously adopted, proceed to give brief abstracts of their contents.

1. The Annual Report of Dr. Chandler, Superintendent of the State Lunatic Hospital, at Worcester, contains a biographical notice of his predecessor, which should be transferred to our pages.*

* We had intended copying the portion of this report referring to Dr. Woodward, but as we have since received the biographical notice by Dr. Chandler, we publish it instead.

The statistics of the institution are as follows :

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Remaining Dec. 1, 1849,	220	209	429
Admitted during the year,	129	112	241
	349	321	670

Of the Admissions, there were cases :

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Of less duration than one year,	83	72	155
Of one year and more,	41	40	81
Not ascertained,	5	0	5
	129	112	241
	—	—	—

There were discharged during the year :

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Of these : Recovered	—	—	—
Recent cases, less			
than one year,	45	54	99
Chronic cases, one year and			
more,	13	11	24
The duration of disease, not			
ascertained,	2	0	2
	60	65	125
Improved,	11	4	15
Incurable and harmless,	17	11	28
Incurable and dangerous,	3	1	4
Deaths,	29	28	57
	120	109	229
	—	—	—

We subjoin the remarks of Dr. Chandler, on the Deaths that have occurred :

"Our mortality has, the past year, been greater than usual. But it has been confined almost wholly to feeble patients whose physical systems were worn out and whose mental recovery was hopeless. In several of the fatal cases their insanity was only one of the symptoms of the lingering dissolution of their

physical powers. Some few of the poor and friendless have been brought to us in their last sickness, when delirium had rendered them troublesome to be taken care of where they were.

"The usual summer complaints visited our household but very lightly. The month of August, which is usually the sickly month, brought less sickness of any kind this year than ever before. We have had nothing like an epidemic, unless about twenty-five cases of erysipelas, which occurred in the spring, may be so called. These cases made their appearance from the last of February to the first of June, in a majority of the wards, without being in any instance contagious. No cause can be assigned with certainty for their breaking out then more than any other time. The inflammation was, in a majority of the cases, confined to the head and face, and when the disease extended down on to the body it was apt to be fatal. In some few, the inflammation extended to the integuments under the skin, and then sloughing and purulent matter was formed.

"By the above table, it is shown that five patients died of this malady. The lady, Mrs. Eliza F. Richardson, who assisted in my family, also died of it.

"It was noticed that those patients who occupied rooms nearest our hot-air furnace, and were consequently the warmest, were most liable to its attack. The air in our wards in the winter is rather hot and dry than otherwise. Some of the floors where this disease prevailed are but seldom wet.

"Consumption and its near associate, marasmus, has found, as heretofore, some victims among us. Wasting away of their lungs and emaciation of the whole system, are the very common results of chronic insanity.

"Epilepsy is one of the most common causes as well as one of the most common sequels of insanity. It is very often one of the prominent symptoms of insanity brought on by habitual intemperance; and, where it is so, fatal results follow in a short time. When epilepsy comes on in childhood the mind almost ceases to expand, and although the person may grow up to manhood, the mind becomes fatuous.

"Of twenty-eight epileptic patients who have died in this Hospital, and whose history was in certain particulars known, the following table shows that, on the average,

	Insane before coming to the Hos.	Remained in the Hospital,	Died at the age of
23 males, 5 females,	36 months, 60 months,	13½ months, 14 months,	42 years. 38 years.

"The number of males afflicted with epilepsy in this Hospital is greater than that of females. The males died at the most advanced age, but they may have been, and probably were, attacked with epilepsy later in life than the females in the cases considered.

"The accessions of the fits of epilepsy are very irregular as to time and severity in different persons. Some have one or two fits every day or two, or every month or two. Some have ten or twenty fits in quick succession and are much disturbed in mind for several days, to be followed by an interval of some weeks or months of freedom from fits and by serenity of mind. Some are seized only while asleep and some only while awake. In some, the fits only amount to slight dizziness which hardly takes away consciousness. In others, all the senses are locked up for the time, and the physical system is racked with convulsions horrid to behold. As a general thing, these persons are unconscious at the time of the fit, and, after apparently suffering the most frightful tortures, wake up and enquire of those around what has happened. A very few have a short warning of the coming on of a fit, but generally they know nothing of it except as they are told by others. Most epileptics enjoy the pleasing delusion of believing that their fits are constantly becoming lighter and more unfrequent.

"The management of them should be kind and conciliating. About the time of having fits they are irritable, jealous, and easily provoked to violent actions. They will not be driven, but must be flattered. They should have exercise, but should never get fatigued. Their diet should be sparing but nutritious. They should never overload the stomach or become surfeited.

"But little can be done effectually in the way of medical treatment. In slight cases stramonium, nitrate of silver and sugar of lead have got some reputation. In a few cases, unconnected with insanity, a mitigation, and a cure even, has followed their protracted use. But the instances of recovery are rare.

"The prospect before these persons is to us always cloudy; and experience tells us that it will invariably grow darker."

2. Bloomingdale Asylum. Dr. Nichols, makes the following return for 1850:

		Males.	Females.	Total.
The number of Patients remaining in the House on the 31st of December, 1849, was	.	50	53	103
The number of admissions during the year 1850, was	.	51	46	97
Whole number of cases in the Asylum,	.	101	99	200
The number of discharges during the year,	.	39	33	72
Of these, were recovered,	.	23	22	50
" " improved,	.	7	8	15
" " unimproved,	.	4	3	7
The number of deaths during the year, was	.	12	6	18
Remaining in the Asylum, December 31st, 1850	.	50	60	110

He observes :—

"Of the deaths, three were from epilepsy; one from anasarca; one from phthisis; one from ascites; one from hemiplegia; two with chronic mania; four with chronic melancholia; four with *paralysie generale*; and one from suicide. In only two cases had the disease existed at the time of death less

than one year, and its average duration was 9.85 years. The period of residence in the Asylum, varied from forty-eight hours to 40.44 years, the average time being 3.12 years.

"The above is as faithful an expression of the immediate causes of death as I am able to give, and it will be seen, that we have had no epidemic nor any acute disease, or at least none that proved fatal in its first stages. There has been no case of dysentery, and none of severe diarrhoea, and those affections more incident to the cold seasons, have been unknown. In those instances where a more specific cause is not assigned, death was the inevitable and awaited final issue of a gradual deterioration of the organism, consequent upon long-continued derangement and deficiency of innervation."

On the matter of expense, which is frequently made a subject of complaint, the following remarks are well worthy of consideration, and they should be distinctly urged on the friends of patients.

"It is unquestionably true, that a considerable proportion of favorable cases, if removed from home and the exciting and maintaining causes of aberration, and some attention paid to bodily health and comfort, would recover spontaneously; but to effect the most restorations, or the most improvement after the resiliency of the system begins to yield to the inertia of a habit, and reason has become resolved into the undoubting handmaid of its own weakness, every species of labor, study, and amusement known among men, may in different cases contribute. But in many instances the mind is so over-borne by its own delusions, or so steeped in lethargy, that it is one of the most difficult tasks in the world to engage the sufferer in anything useful or right, when skillful and persevering efforts prove it by no means impossible, and requires, it will be readily seen, the zealous energies of a large number of assistants of versatile knowledge and powers of persuasion and control.

"Every intelligent mind, basing its reflections upon the principles here briefly expounded, will be led to perceive, that the most effectual application of the most extensive facilities that could be made available in the moral treatment of insanity, requires a scale of expenditure of which poor-house rates for the poor, and hotel rates for the rich, afford no criterion.

"That a spirit of liberality towards this Institution, and the class of sufferers it is designed to alleviate, pervades your Board, there is no doubt, and I have introduced this subject, not to influence your minds, but because frequent opportunities (if perchance this communication should go beyond your Board) should be improved to impress the public mind, and the friends of wealthy patients, with the conviction, that the elaborate and expensive arrangements called for in the curative treatment of the insane, are not needless luxuries, but needful means to one of the most desirable ends.

Nor is there less necessity, that the facts now quoted, should be generally understood.

"It is the universal testimony of the insane, both during their affliction and after their recovery, that they should feel much better satisfied had force (persuasion on full trial failing), rather than stratagem, been used to induce them to leave home. Once deceived, their suspicions and prejudices are ever on the alert, and it is difficult again to acquire that confidence essential to a proper influence over them.

"All persons who have had much experience with the insane agree, that the visits of their friends, almost invariably, do those under curative treatment great injury, and while full and accurate information in regard to the state of patients may be obtained by inquiry, it is considered that the Physician has the same discretion to decline proposed visits to any patient, as he has in prescribing or withholding medicine."

3. The McLean Asylum for the insane, attached to the Massachusetts General Hospital, continues under the care of Dr. Luther V. Bell.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Remaining January 1, 1850,.....	95	89	184
Admitted during the year,.....	80	93	173
	—	—	—
	175	182	357
	—	—	—
Discharged during the year,.....	75	82	157
Of these :			
Recovered,.....	34	44	78
Much Improved,.....	3	4	7
Improved,.....	10	7	17
Not Improved,.....	12	12	24
Died,.....	15	13	28
Discharged as unfit,.....	1	2	3
	—	—	—
	75	82	157

The number of those discharged, as "*much improved*," has very much diminished, and a highly satisfactory reason is assigned : "What was, a dozen years since, one of the most painful and disheartening circumstances in the experience of those in charge—the capricious removal of patients at the most critical and

promising stages of restoration—soon to fall back into permanent disease—is now a rare occurrence."

Dr. Bell, also enlarges on the great necessity of ample means to fulfill the objects of Insane Institutions, and in so doing, bestows a great tribute to the princely munificence of Mr. Appleton:

"The most essential drawback to the fullest amount of public good attained by the Insane Hospitals of the country, regarded as a whole, obtains in the erroneous belief, or at least the actual assumption of a possibility, that this class of institutions can be carried on fairly and justly under any such outlay of means as would be measured by the ordinary support of individuals having health and reason. We cannot be too grateful that the views of those who have directed the affairs of this Asylum have never stopped at the nominal accomplishment, but have aimed at attaining the highest realities of their professed ends,—a consummation only to be sought in the decision that just so much money shall be freely expended as can be wisely applied to the object.

"As the communities called to provide for the insane advance in familiarity with this duty, and in means to meet it, the fatal error of cheap institutions will cease to exist;—an error involving not merely the negative objection of leaving the presumptive ends of hospital treatment unfulfilled, but the positive hazard of accidents, compromising not only the institution immediately concerned, but the usefulness and reputation of the whole class. It would be a happy conviction upon the minds of legislators and communities, could they be persuaded, that, between no provision at all of a public kind for the insane, and a parsimonious, stinted, and inefficient imitation of a real provision, the former evil is infinitely the least. A county or town or State may dignify a part or the whole of some custodial receptacle for its lunatics, with the high sounding title of an "Asylum;" the public and curators of the unfortunate, or even the friends and relatives, may ignorantly, or as a self excusing salvo, accept such substitution as a full acquittance of their obligation; but every person who gives an hour's reflection to the matter, and compares the cost of persons in health and of the insane under even the minimum outlay for mere custody, to say nothing of amelioration and cure, cannot but see the impossibility of doing justice to the insane on a cheap plan.

"Communities preparing for provision for this class have been led into woful miscalculations on this subject. The fanciful idea has even been disseminated by those having little practical acquaintance with this department, that insane hospitals could be made almost self-supporting institutions,—that the labor of the small proportion of those having some physical and mental energy left could be forced into supporting the masses of their imbecile and feeble brethren.

"A liberal and generous provision of every means which can conduce to the recovery, safety, and well being of the patients of an institution which receives a portion of paying patients, carries with it its own reward. Experience has shown, that the friends of many of those in circumstances to remunerate are ready and willing to contribute so freely towards their own relatives as to aid materially those not fortunate in their pecuniary position.

"In this institution, in accordance with this experience, every dollar which has been expended to elevate the character of the accommodations, and the means of treatment, has been a good investment. A large portion of our inmates are sustained, and that with all the essential advantages which any can enjoy, at rates much below the actual cost; while the calls upon the rich, gratefully and cheerfully met, supply the otherwise enormous deficiency between income and expenditure.

"The recent decision of our munificent friend, the Hon. William Appleton, to continue his course of liberal benefactions to our institution, by bestowing upon us the means of establishing two distinct edifices, in the neighborhood of the other buildings, for the accommodation of a class of patients most favored by fortune, with arrangements more extensive, complete, and commodious than have been before known in this or perhaps any other country, will be an era in the history of this Asylum.

"The income of the "Appleton Fund" has each year saved numbers of those pressed by straitened circumstances, to our list of *recovered*; and that so noiselessly and delicately, that, in the case of a majority of its recipients, they have never been made acquainted with the fact of their obligation to it. Happy will it be for the cause of humanity, if this present doubled benefaction shall as fully meet the designs of its giver!"

The improvements made in the buildings are thus enumerated :

"The elevation and improvement of the entire establishment have, as usual, not been overlooked during the past year. A large and handsome hall, fifty feet long by twenty-five wide and fourteen high, has been constructed, by raising a story upon one of the buildings of the male side, which furnishes ample room for two billiard-tables,—ever an interesting and useful exercise for the insane; and also makes a sort of conversation and reading room, where patients from the different sections may meet for some hours in the day for recreation and intercourse. Something of this kind, to break the monotony of life during periods of weather too inclement to permit riding or walking, has long been wanting. Our former billiard room was too small and inconvenient for our increased household.

"The heating of the whole establishment has been brought into satisfactory condition; and extensive changes in introducing pleasant and ornamental windows, in place of the original inadequate and gloomy ones, have been

made. It is proposed, the ensuing year, to continue this cheerful improvement in the eastern wings.

"The heating by water, and the exhaustive ventilation, have been found to answer the most sanguine expectations which had been entertained. No other method of ventilation than that depending on a constant, reliable, manageable power deserves the slightest consideration for hospitals or similar institutions. The natural ascent of the foul air, or its removal by the fluctuating, ceasing currents of wind, have proved, in the experience of all times and countries, a mere pretext of ventilation. Buildings constructed before the introduction of this great modern improvement, are often with difficulty adapted to its reception; but to construct edifices at this day without reference to the introduction of a forced system of ventilation is an omission of the most unpardonable nature."

4. *Ohio Lunatic Asylum.* This, the Twelfth Annual Report of the Institution, contains the first made by Dr. S. Hanbury Smith, the present Superintendent. The Statistics are as follows :

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Remaining Nov. 15, 1849,.....	169	154	323
Admitted during 1850,.....	112	81	193
	281	235	516

The average number under treatment was 328, while the rooms of every description (single and double) are represented by Dr. Smith, as only fitted to accommodate 295. This is certainly a most unfortunate condition, and the danger of it is properly dwelt upon.

The recoveries among the 193 received during the year have been of recent cases 51, and of chronic ones 8. The whole number discharged, as cured, was 99. Much improved, 9. Improved, 15. Unimproved, 53; while the deaths were 22. Total 198.

Dr. Smith further states, that the whole number of recent cases, i. e. of less than a year's duration, which have been received into the institution from its opening to the 15th of November, 1850, is 851; of which have been discharged, cured, 584. There remain under treatment, whose cure is in all human probability certain, 47; being

a total of 631, and a per centage of cures, on recent cases received, of 75.43.

There have been 707 chronic cases recovered, of whom 150 have been discharged cured, and the recovery of twelve may be considered certain. This gives us 22.91 per cent. on the total number.

But owing to the crowded state of the buildings, and the provisions of law directing the removal of patients after a certain time, there have been discharged up to the close of the present fiscal year, in round numbers, 300 incurable patients. The questions put by Dr. Smith, are such as must sooner or later require the active attention of all the friends of humanity in the different States. *What becomes of those discharged and to be discharged from this Asylum as incurable? What has been the lot of these 300 and what is the lot of thousands of insane who have never been admitted?*

The Ohio Asylum has been free from epidemic diseases during the last year, and this while cholera was raging in the city. This exemption is ascribed to the carrying out the hygienic precautions so minutely described in the last report of Dr. Awl: "If an unusually large experience (says Dr. Smith) be worth any thing—and I candidly confess I have learned to look with scrutinizing mistrust on all mere personal experience; if however an experience of three tremendous epidemics of cholera in three different countries has taught me any thing, it is that good drainage, and perfect ventilation, especially *natural ventilation*, where that can be obtained, are of all hygienic means, by far the most important."

Dr. Smith also appeals for the employment of more attendants, stating that the present rates is one to every 25 or 30 male patients, while the law in France fixes one attendant to every ten patients, as the minimum propor-

tion, even in the largest of the public Institutions. The difficulty however of obtaining suitable aid, is not exaggerated :

" But it is no easy matter to obtain the services of persons properly qualified to be employed in an insane hospital at all, much less of such as are suited for the situation of attendants. The duties of attendants are multifarious, and take up the whole of their time ; they are, or ought to be, the constant companions of the sick, as well in their occupations as in their amusements. They should set the example of order, punctuality, gentle deportment, appropriate language, and kind treatment, and should never lose an opportunity of contributing to the comfort of those committed to their charge, nor of gaining their confidence and good will. They should, by their conduct, prove to the patients that they are only actuated by the desire to benefit them, showing, by their manner, the sympathy so often on the tongue, so seldom really felt. That indescribable qualification, the possession of tact, is of primary importance ; and the art of conversation—of talking well—is only second to it. Few, unacquainted with the subject, can form an idea of the value of the last accomplishment, which may be described as the art of saying the right thing in the right manner.

" By addressing a few familiar household words to an excited patient at the right moment, the turbulent current of his discordant thoughts may often be instantly checked, and brought to flow in a smoother stream, and if we bear in mind the influence of the individual on his companions, it may be said, without exaggeration, that a word spoken rightly or wrongly, shall decide whether a whole ward be quiet, orderly and good humored, or excited, irritable, violent and tumultuous. But difficult as it is to meet with persons properly qualified in these respects, and at the same time willing to employ their talents in the service of the institution, it is far more difficult to find those who shall base their efforts on true Christian charity, on a broad foundation of benevolent feeling, of good will to man, on the principle, ' love thy neighbor as thyself.'

" Any one seeking an engagement as attendant in an Asylum, for the sake only of the pecuniary reward he expects to reap, is unfit for the employment, whatever his other qualifications. Only he who loves his fellow-men, and feels most sympathy with those who are the most afflicted, can be profitably employed as an attendant on the insane. Such an one will soon learn to look on the Asylum as not only a retreat for the disordered in mind, but as a real home for those benevolent individuals who feel most happy when engaged in ministering to the necessities of their suffering fellow-mortals. No task is more difficult, nor involves more serious responsibility and demands more judgment, than the selection of properly qualified persons for employment in an institution of this kind, by its executive head."

5. Dr. C. H. Stedman, is the Superintendent of the *Boston Lunatic Hospital*.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
There were remaining at the date of the last Report, -----	80	123	203
Admitted, -----	27	46	73
-----	107	169	276
Discharged, Recovered, -----	12	25	37
" Improved, -----	1	3	4
" Not Improved, -----	3	1	4
Eloped, -----	2	—	2
Died, -----	8	17	25
-----	26	46	72

Of the Deaths, 11 were from Dysentery, 4 from Consumption, and 3 from General Insanity. Again, of the fatal cases, 4 had been insane for various periods up to a year; 18, for periods varying from two to thirty years; and of three, the term was unknown.

Whatever of peculiarity belongs to this Asylum is thus stated by Dr. Stedman:

"In making an estimate of the value of this institution, it is to be borne in mind, that it is a pauper establishment; and as such, is not to be compared with those instituted for the care and cure of the more favored class of insane persons; nor, therefore, should we expect, as the blessed results of its operations, an equal proportion of those restored to their reason, and to all the comforts of home, and all the consolations of a life of active usefulness.

"This is to a great extent a receptacle. It is the last earthly goal and home of many a poor lunatic; and death, too often, is the only friend that comes to his relief.

"It is at the same time not to be forgotten that many curable patients resort hither; and that, for the restoration of such, provision is made.

"That a reciprocal benefit arises from the association of these two classes, (the curable and the incurable) is not improbable; at least, I am not prepared to believe that the interests of either can be subserved by a separation. Nor do I see why the ample means employed for the cure of one class, should not be considered necessary for the health, comfort and longevity of the other.

"Our inmates are principally foreigners; and of this class a large majority are from Ireland. Many of these have been the subjects of treatment elsewhere—perhaps at the Asylum at Worcester, or in some of the neighboring

Almshouses or Prisons. Nothing can be ascertained of the history of many of the cases. They are generally found to be uneducated, superstitious, and jealous; and being unused to the manners and customs of our countrymen, they are very suspicious of us; and therefore it is quite difficult to win their confidence, and of course to treat them satisfactorily.

"Of this class many owe their insanity to disappointment of the high expectations they had formed at home, of reaping golden harvests in the New World. They are told in Ireland of this land of plenty, that dollars are as thick as paving stones in our streets: that they scarce ever need to labor, or that labor commands any price. When they reach our shores, they saunter idly about the town, enjoy the sights to be seen, take board with those who know how to fleece them easily. Then, their money being gone, they rouse themselves for labor, are disappointed in procuring situations, or in the smallness of their gains; or are driven to the bottle to quench the burning thoughts of their home over the seas; and at length terminate their hapless career in the Lunatic Asylum. In these cases the disease assumes the form of deep seated, and often irremediable melancholy.

"Almost all other patients than aliens, who are sent here, have previously received the advantage of a residence in other Asylums. They there became incurable, and the burden of their further maintenance proved at length oppressive to their friends.

"It will thus be seen, that by far the largest proportion of the permanent inmates of this Hospital are incurable. Indeed, at the present moment there are not six patients out of the two hundred and four that will probably ever be restored to reason.

"Recovery is rarely to be looked for in those cases where the patient has been insane longer than one year. In fact after a few months' duration, unless there be some improvement in his condition, hope for him too often begins to wane.

"All therefore to be done for this hopeless class is to make them as comfortable as possible, by preventing or checking the inroads of bodily disease, by inciting them to the occupation of their time, in some labor, exercise or amusement; and, in all practicable ways, to endeavor to draw their attention away from themselves, and fix it on objects and pursuits of a character different from that of those which have hitherto engaged their diseased faculties."

6. *New-Jersey State Lunatic Asylum.* Dr. Buttolph, commences his report, with the following Table:

	Men.	Women.	Total.
Patients in the Asylum, Jan. 1st, 1850.....	62	48	110
Received since, to January 1st, 1851.....	52	58	110
Under treatment during the year.....	114	106	220

[October,

		Men.	Women.	Total.
Discharged	Recovered, during the year,.....	15	17	32
" Improved,	" "	7	5	12
" Unimproved,	" "	0	4	4
Died, during the year,.....		6	4	10
		—	—	—
		28	30	58
Remaining, January 1st 1851,.....		86	76	162

We believe that the New-Jersey Institution is generally deemed by Superintendents to be among the most perfect in the United States, as to heating, and other appliances: and we therefore extract an account of some changes in the mode of warming that have recently been made:

" The change in the position of the steam boilers for warming the building, etc., authorized by a committee of your board, has been completed, and although the work was attended with greater difficulty and expense than was anticipated, yet the result has proved so entirely successful, in the saving of water and fuel, that I feel justified in referring to it in detail, for the benefit of those who may wish to adopt similar arrangements.

" It may be stated that the boilers were originally placed beneath the cross halls of the centre building, but on account of their proximity to four of the interior walls, they were not placed as much lower than the ranges of pipe in the air chambers as was at first desired, and as experience demonstrated to be necessary, to secure the return to them of the condensed water. After trying various expedients, with but partial success, it was determined to excavate the ground under the main hall of the centre building, in its whole extent, to the depth of nine feet, and place the boilers at the bottom. By this means a difference of eight feet was obtained between the most dependent portion of the ranges in the air chambers, and the water line of the boilers, and of ten feet from the former, to the point of attachment to the latter, of the condense pipes. The boilers are placed in two sets, twenty feet apart, air chambers being formed over each set, from which nearly the whole warming of the centre building is accomplished, and in a manner the most perfect, the heat of the boilers being continued at night, after the steam is down.

" The boilers are all connected together by a system of cross pipes and valves, so that each can be used for all purposes in case of the temporary derangement of others. Again they are separated by the same system of valves and cross pipes by which they are connected, so that each is made to supply steam to particular ranges of pipe in the air chambers, and the condensed water from each returned to the boiler from which it is supplied with steam.

"This mode of supply and return is essential to the successful working of an apparatus where the boilers are fed directly by the condensed water, without the intervention of a force-pump. Each boiler supplies two ranges of wrought iron pipe, one being three-fourths, and the other one inch in diameter, supported on brackets, and placed fifteen inches asunder; the steam going out through the upper and returning through the lower. The only difficulty met with in procuring a return of the water from the ranges to the boilers, where the difference in elevation between the former and latter is properly adjusted, is the presence of air in the pipes, which occurs at all times when a partial vacuum is formed by shutting off the steam from the apparatus, or even by the reduction of a few pounds in its pressure. To overcome this difficulty, the simplest expedient is resorted to, which is to allow the air to escape by a stop-cock placed at the extremity of the lower range next the boilers. This is done by the fireman in the morning, soon after the steam is applied to the ranges, and repeatedly during the day, when the presence of air is indicated by the low temperature of the condense pipes. By this means a circulation of steam through upwards of four thousand feet in length of pipe, connected with each boiler, is obtained in from ten to twenty minutes, the time varying with the degree of pressure within the boilers; and, if care is used, without the loss of even a single pint of water. In addition to the business of warming the whole house, the same boilers furnish steam for heating all the water required in the wings for bathing, etc., for heating coils in the ventilating flues, and for cooking purposes. To prevent the regurgitation of water and steam from the boilers into the ranges, on the occurrence of a partial vacuum in the latter, check valves are placed in the condense pipes, near to the former, which are so constructed as to allow of the return of water to the boilers, but to resist the escape of steam from them in this direction. To ensure the perfect working of an apparatus on the principles described, the boilers require to be made of ample size for the effect desired, so that the radiating pipes may be at all times fully charged with steam. This will favor the return of the water at a high temperature, will assist to secure an equable pressure within the boilers, and thus give to the apparatus the highest degree of efficiency, with the least practicable amount of fuel.

"As our fixtures were formerly arranged and used, we were compelled to waste all of the condensed water, which in severe weather amounted to from one to two thousand gallons per day, and this at or near the boiling temperature. With this waste, the boilers required replenishing from the cold water tanks once in thirty minutes, and of consequence, with fuel, in a very liberal manner.

"Under the improved arrangement and management, not more than twenty-five gallons of water per day is necessarily wasted; and a clear saving of from twenty-five to forty per cent. in fuel effected.

"In an economical point of view alone, these results are most satisfactory; but if it be considered that with our present mode of raising water, which is by

steam power, we are constantly liable to the accident of a temporary failure of this necessary article, in our mode of warming, a still stronger reason than that of economy is added, in justification of the change, before the cold season sets in.

"As now working, we may safely challenge the world to produce another apparatus so perfect in the arrangement of its details, and so satisfactory in its results. This degree of perfection, however, in the art of warming has been reached, as the best results in the arts ever are, by the most patient observation and perplexing experience."

7. Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane. At the date of the last report, there were 221 patients in the Institution; since which, 207 have been admitted, and 215 have been discharged, leaving 213 under care at the close of the year.

Of the patients discharged during 1850, there were:

Cured,	106
Much Improved,.....	20
Improved,	41
Stationary,.....	21
Died,	27
	—
	215

Dr. Kirkbride, has prepared an elaborate set of tables elucidating the Statistics of the Institution since its opening. From these, we select Nos. 1, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, as among the most important:

TABLE I.—*Showing the number and sex of the admissions and discharges since the opening of the Hospital, and of those remaining at the end of 1850.*

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Admissions.....	999	807	1806
Discharges or Deaths.....	887	706	1593
Remain.....	112	101	213

TABLE V.—*Showing the number of single, married, widows, and widowers, in 1806 patients.*

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Single.....	558	326	884
Married	395	371	766
Widows.....	—	110	110
Widowers	46	—	46

TABLE VIII.—*Showing the supposed causes of insanity in 1806 patients.*

	M.	F.	T.		M.	F.	T.
Ill health of various kinds	152	133	285	Want of employment...	22	2	24
Intemperance.....	97	9	106	Mortified pride.....	2	1	3
Loss of property.....	60	21	81	Celibacy.....	1	—	1
Dread of poverty.....	2	—	2	Anxiety for Wealth.....	1	—	1
Disappointed affections..	15	17	32	Use of Opium.....	2	5	7
Intense study.....	16	4	20	Use of Tobacco.....	4	—	4
Domestic difficulties....	15	38	53	Puerperal state.....	—	62	62
Fright.....	10	15	25	Lactation too long con- tinued.....	—	3	3
Grief, loss of friends, &c.	31	62	93	Uncontrolled passion.....	4	6	10
Intense application to business.....	14	—	14	Tight lacing.....	—	1	1
Religious excitement....	38	29	67	Injuries of the head.....	16	3	19
Political excitement.....	3	—	3	Masturbation.....	15	—	15
Metaphysical speculations	1	—	1	Mental anxiety.....	40	45	85
Want of exercise.....	4	2	6	Exposure to cold.....	3	—	3
Engagement in a duel...	1	—	1	Exposure to direct rays of the sun.....	16	—	16
Disappointed expecta- tions.....	4	5	9	Exposure to intense heat	—	1	1
Nostalgia.....	—	3	3	Unascertained.....	408	340	748
Stock speculations.....	2	—	2				

TABLE IX.—*Showing the ages at which insanity first appeared in 1806 patients.*

	M.	F.	T.		M.	F.	T.
Under 10 years.....	3	1	4	Between 45 and 50....	55	56	111
Between 10 and 15....	14	10	24	" 50 and 55....	36	26	62
" 15 and 20....	95	88	183	" 55 and 60....	21	30	51
" 20 and 25....	206	150	356	" 60 and 65....	20	11	31
" 25 and 30....	183	157	340	" 65 and 70....	3	2	5
" 30 and 35....	148	103	251	" 70 and 75....	4	2	6
" 35 and 40....	115	76	191	" 75 and 80....	4	1	5
" 40 and 45....	92	94	186		999	807	1806

TABLE X.—*Showing the forms of disease for which 1806 patients were admitted.*

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Mania.....	475	414	889
Melancholia.....	207	220	427
Monomania.....	159	99	258
Dementia.....	151	70	221
Delirium.....	7	4	11

TABLE XI.—*Showing the duration of the disease at the time of admission in 1806 patients.*

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Not exceeding 3 months.....	512	401	913
Between 3 and 6 months.....	76	64	140
" 6 months and 1 year.....	120	96	216
" 1 and 2 years.....	127	81	208
" 2 and 3 ".....	43	37	80
" 3 and 4 ".....	14	19	33
" 4 and 5 ".....	23	13	41
" 5 and 10 ".....	34	31	65
" 10 and 15 ".....	15	23	38
" 15 and 20 ".....	13	20	33
" 20 and 25 ".....	5	8	13
" 25 and 30 ".....	5	8	13
" 30 and 35 ".....	2	3	5
" 35 and 40 ".....	2	—	2
" 40 and 45 ".....	3	2	5
" 50 and 55 ".....	—	1	1
	999	807	1806

But we must not omit Table 13, which exhibits the results of treatment in the various forms of Insanity, and the comments of Dr. Kirkbride, on what constitutes a cure of Insanity:

TABLE XIII.—*Showing the state of 1593 patients who have been discharged or who have died—their sex, and the form of disease for which they were admitted.*

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Mania.	Melancholia.	Monomania.	Dementia.	Delirium.
Cured.....	466	377	843	498	214	115	15	1
Much improved.....	70	67	137	65	39	25	8	1
Improved.....	123	111	234	100	64	36	34	1
Stationary.....	123	80	203	83	37	30	52	1
Died.....	104	72	176	80	40	8	39	9

"The total number of patients discharged cured since the opening of this Hospital is 843, while 371 were in various stages of improvement, 203 were stationary, and 176 died. Of those cured, a greater proportion were admitted for mania than for any other form of insanity. Next

in order, the cases laboring under melancholia and monomania give the greatest ratio of recoveries. Out of 231 admitted for dementia, only 15 recovered; a few of these were of a chronic character, one being of seven years' standing, but generally they were of the acute form. Of the cases registered as laboring under delirium, eleven in number, but a single one recovered.

"In reference to what constitutes a cure of insanity, I have adopted precisely the rules that are applicable to other diseases. When all symptoms of the malady have disappeared, and the patient exhibits no sign of a deranged mind for several months, I can see no reason why he should not be considered restored as much as if he had had an attack of some other disease.

"An individual who recovers from inflammation of the lungs this winter keeps well during the summer, and next winter has a return of the disease, would scarcely be said not to have recovered from the first attack. Intermittent fever may occur in the autumn, and after many months the same form of disease may show itself in the next spring, but that would scarcely be sufficient for the assertion that the patient was not cured of the autumnal attack. Rheumatism may, and often does occur in the same person a long time after all symptoms of a previous attack had disappeared, and Asthma may return on a particular day of August in every year: while it may be said with entire propriety that these individuals had a strong predisposition to these several diseases, the fact of their having a second attack after so long a period ought not to cause any doubt as to their recovery from the first. There are cases, however, in which doubt does exist, and the remedy is simply so to register them in the tables as to prevent wrong inferences. If the recovery is doubtful, the conscientious observer will insert it among the 'much improved,' so that, although we may tell rather less than the whole truth, there will be no risk of our giving more favorable statements than the facts warrant.

"In reference to mortality, we find that of those admitted for mania and melancholia, nearly the same proportion died—of those laboring under monomania, less than one-third as many as of either of the preceding forms, while the cases of dementia showed a mortality nearly double of that of mania or melancholia, and of the eleven admitted with delirium, for reasons stated on a previous page, nine died. Of the demented cases received, it may be proper to mention that a considerable number were persons somewhat advanced in life, and whose diseases were of long standing."

8. *Butler Hospital for the Insane.* We give precedence (in noticing this report) to the following important remarks of Dr. Ray:

"I have often called the attention of your board to the necessity of some legislation respecting the confinement of the insane, and I deem this a suitable occasion for making public expression of our wants. Not that we are laboring under any special difficulties, but in common with other institutions of a similar kind, our appropriate duties are performed, rather by sufferance of public sentiment than any sanction of law, and thus we constantly lie at the mercy of excited passion and prejudice. The actual practice is for those who stand in the nearest relation to the insane person, to place him in charge of an institution and give the necessary obligations for his support. No one, certainly, can deny that this is right and proper, and in most cases it meets every practical requisite. The person is correctly considered insane, and he quietly submits to the measure. On recovery he recognises its propriety and gives it his grateful approval. But in cases of a doubtful character there should be a provision for some authoritative judgment, and especially in that class of cases where the person not only regards the deprivation of his liberty as the grossest outrage upon his rights, but is in a position, sooner or later, to seek redress for his fancied injuries. The probability of being involved in litigation would often induce one to forbear to interfere, even while every other consideration called for his interference. At any rate, the law, whatever it is, should be clearly defined, and should meet the difficulties experienced in the exceptional cases. The common law sanctions no confinement of the insane, except on the score of their safety or that of society, and our statutes are silent on the subject. For any other purpose, the measure is at the peril of those who seek it. True, it seems almost incredible that people should be punished for doing what common sense and common humanity prompted them to do, but it has happened, and may happen again, that an insane person, believing, or affecting to believe, that his confinement was grossly unjust though it resulted in his partial recovery, has resorted to the law for redress, and by setting up false issues and making artful appeals to the popular sympathies, has succeeded in convincing a jury that he was a much injured man, and obtaining from them a verdict of vindictive damages. There is no reason why a charitable institution engaged in a work of benevolence, should be subjected to responsibility of this kind. Abuse of power on their part, can be checked by suit-

able provisions of the law, while it is certainly unjust to make an institution responsible for a step which is founded, and it cannot be otherwise, on the representations of others. If friends or relatives undertake to commit a grievous wrong by subjecting a sane man to all the consequences of insanity, they can often deceive the officers of a hospital to some extent. Many patients, at the moment of their admission, show no unequivocal signs of insanity; they loudly protest against the measure, and give plausible reasons for their conduct. Indeed, weeks and even months may pass away, before such signs are apparent under the closest observation. Either the hospital presents no suitable opportunity for manifesting his morbid fancies, or the presence of strangers excites sufficient self-control to check such manifestations, and he governs his conduct and conversation by the ordinary rules of men. In the nature of things, therefore, the fact of insanity must sometimes be taken on trust, and nothing could be more unjust than to make the officers of a hospital responsible for so doing. Even in cases where they do see the strongest indications of insanity, there is nothing to prevent a jury, as I have already intimated, from taking a very different view of the matter. There is really no necessity for such a state of things. These doubtful cases might be settled at once, by a very simple course of procedure which should do justice to all parties and prevent any subsequent collisions. When friends hesitate to assume the disagreeable duty of depriving another of his liberty, let them have the power of referring the case to a competent tribunal, whose decision shall be final for a certain period. The time has come when a law for regulating the legal relations of the insane, both in civil and criminal cases, should find a place in the statute-book of every State, and it is to be hoped, for the sake of domestic peace, of justice between man and man, and of humanity to the friendless and helpless, that the duty of providing such a law will be no longer neglected."

	Males.	Females.	Total.
In this Institution there were remaining			
January 1, 1850,.....	51	56	107
Admitted during 1850,.....	38	35	73
	—	—	—
	89	91	180
Discharged Cured,.....			
" Improved,.....	12	7	19
" Unimproved,.....	15	12	27
Died,.....	2	3	5
	7	9	16
	—	—	—
	36	31	67
	—	—	—

We also subjoin some observations by Dr. Ray, on a matter which we have already brought before our readers, in extracts from other reports :

"The feature that characterises the modern management of the insane, is the invariable use of kind and gentle treatment. The supremacy of this rule is apparent in every arrangement and regulation of an asylum. It is admitted by the medical profession at large; it is uppermost, I believe, in the minds of those who manage hospitals, either as Directors or immediate officers; it pervades the regulations of the attendants; it appears in the manners, tōne and address of all who have any intercourse with the patients, and actually ensures a more ready and effectual management than harsh words, or harsh handling. In these facts will be found a guaranty against improper practices, and upon a broad estimate of the ordinary rules of action that govern men, it would seem to be a sufficient one. But it would be as idle to suppose that in some mysterious way, the moment people are entrusted with the charge of the insane, they become transformed from men and women into angels, as that, on the other hand, they should systematically follow a course opposed by every influence around them. There are exceptions to all general rules; imperfection and short-coming are incident to every thing human, and if occasionally, an attendant should so far forget or disregard his obligations, as to utter a harsh word or use unnecessary force, no sensible man would consider the fact as enough to outweigh the numberless benefits conferred by these institutions. To expect that a young person without any extraordinary moral endowments, or any special preparation for the duty, can bear, day after day and hour after hour, week in and week out, the incessant and systematic efforts of one whose power for mischief is only heightened by disease, to tease and irritate him and never lose his patience, is to expect a phenomenon not often witnessed in any other department of life. There might be some excuse for such an unreasonable notion, were it accompanied by a willingness to bear those rates of remuneration which are made necessary by the employment of attendants upon a liberal scale. The fact is, however, that while the expenses of these institutions have been steadily increasing, to meet the increasing cost of labor and the ordinary means of living, as well as the demand for progressive improvement, the price of board has been as steadily falling, until it has become a settled notion in the community, that the very peculiar and expensive attentions required by the insane, can be rendered at a price actually below that of

the lowest class of boarding-houses in the country. There is no magic in this matter. An institution can be sustained at such prices, only by means of reserved funds or some other extraordinary aid, or by adopting a scale of expenditure more suitable to a poor-house than a hospital for the insane."

9. *The Asylum near Frankford in Pennsylvania,* is (as most of our readers are already aware) an institution founded and endowed by the denomination of Friends, for the insane of their own faith. Dr. Worthington, is the Physician to it.

There remained March 1, 1850,.....	48 Patients.
Received during the year,.....	20
	—

68

There were Discharged :

Restored,.....	12
Much Improved,.....	1
Improved,.....	3
Stationary,.....	7
Died,	2
	—
	25

" Of the twelve patients discharged restored, seven were under care not exceeding three months; one from three to six months; two from six to twelve months; and two for more than twelve months. Of those discharged not restored, two were under treatment not exceeding three months: two from three to six months; four from six months to a year; and five for more than one year. Among those who left the Institution not restored, we have to report two cases in which there was reason to believe, the patients would have recovered, had not the treatment been interrupted by their removal.

" Considering insanity as a physical disease, we mean by the term 'restored,' that the disorder in which the deranged manifestations of intellect originated, whether of the brain directly, or by sympathy with some other organ, has been removed, and the mind has consequently returned to the condition natural to it in a healthy state of the system. When, however, patients have been noted for any striking peculiarities of manners or conduct, previous to the attack of insanity, and the mind has been restored to its original condition,—or being subject to a paroxysmal form of the disease, they have become calm and rational, so as to be able to return to their families or friends, they are considered as 'restored to usual health,' and are so reported in the tabular statement.

'Much improved,' signifies that they are so far restored to the use of reason, as to be able to leave the institution without risk, but that there is reason to doubt their entire recovery. By 'improved' we mean, that there has been considerable change for the better in the habits and general condition, while the disorder of the intellect still remains apparent.

"About one half of all the cases discharged 'restored,' leave the Institution at or before the expiration of three months' residence; yet I am convinced, that in many if not in most of these cases, this is too short a time for the patient to receive all the benefits that the Institution is capable of conferring."

The means adopted to amuse, and employ the minds of patients, will be observed in the following:

"We have an attendant for each six patients, whose special business it is, to instruct and assist them in such employment as seems to be best suited to their abilities, and to accompany them in excursions for recreation and exercise. The male attendant selects all the patients from among the men, who are capable of labor, and spends two or three hours every morning with them, in work upon the grounds or farm. When the weather prevents their going out, they find employment in the house, in washing and picking hair for matrasses—in preparing the materials and making brooms, or in work in the carpenter's shop. The female convalescent patients spend their mornings in walking, or amuse themselves at the library. Under the care of their attendant, they pass a portion of their time daily in plain sewing, dress-making or fancy work. The carriage goes out daily in suitable weather, with a party of men in the morning, and females in the afternoon; and the circular railroad is in frequent requisition by nearly all classes of our patients. In the afternoon, the attendant having charge of the convalescent male patients, spends the time with them at the library, and in pedestrian excursions through the neighborhood. Other attendants take out a party of eight or ten, mostly of the demented class, for pumping—which occupies about an hour each afternoon; after which they generally spend the time in walking, or in exercise in the railroad car. Pumping by turning a crank and balance wheel, is a kind of exercise which is exceedingly well adapted to this class of patients, and in some cases of mischievous excitement, it has been the means of restoring the patients to orderly and quiet habits, after all endeavors to induce them to engage in other kinds of employment had failed. The incurable class of female

patients are also taken out by their attendants daily, in fine weather, for the advantage of air and exercise; and all the attendants are required for their own benefit, as well as that of their respective charges, to spend all the time they can spare from the wings, with their patients out of doors, in some kind of employment or exercise. The lectures, and exhibitions with the magic lantern, have been continued as heretofore, on one evening of each week during the winter. We have lately procured a neat collection of pictures for the lantern, the gift of a patient about leaving the Institution. They represent views of celebrated places, and with the apparatus which is in preparation for producing dissolving views, will be a valuable contribution to our evening entertainments."

10. *The Indiana Hospital for the Insane*, was opened on the 31st of October, 1848, under the medical superintendence of Dr. R. J. Patterson :

	Males.	Females.	Total.
At the close of the first year, there remained,.....	35	41	76
Admitted during the year,.....	31	27	58
	—	—	—
	66	68	134
There were Discharged :			
Recovered,.....	18	20	38
Improved,.....	5	2	7
Unimproved,.....	1	6	7
Eloped,.....	1	—	1
Died,.....	1	—	1
	—	—	—
	26	28	54
	—	—	—

Of the 54 patients, 13 were discharged by order of the Board, as incurable, to make room for curable and more urgent cases.

The whole number admitted during the two years was 162, of whom 58 had been discharged as recovered.— There were 5 deaths during the same period.

The following Table is given of the expenses incurred in the erection of various Asylums :

Cost of various Institutions for the Insane in the United States, including lands, out-buildings, furniture and fixtures, &c.

	Number of Patients.	Cost.
Maine Hospital, Augusta.....	150	\$125,000
McLean Asylum, Sommerville, Mass.....	200	250,000
State Hospital, Worcester, Mass.....	430	155,000
New York Asylum, Bloomingdale.....	150	220,000
New York State Asylum, Utica.....	470	436,000
New Jersey State Asylum, Trenton.....	200	154,000
Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia.....	200	325,000
Virginia Asylum, Staunton.....	220	106,000
South Carolina Asylum, Columbus.....	...	100,000
Ohio Asylum, Columbus.....	350	160,000
Indiana Hospital, Indianapolis.....	180	85,000

We also add the remarks of Dr. Patterson, on the mode of heating:

"Furnaces of every description having proved unsatisfactory in warming insane hospitals, it was determined to introduce steam, as the safest against accidents, and the best known agent for producing the most desirable temperature, and for thoroughly ventilating the wards of this institution. The apparatus consists of two four-flue boilers, each twenty feet in length and four feet in diameter, connected to a large amount of wrought iron welded steam pipe.

"The boilers are placed in the underground story of the wash house, one hundred feet in the rear and twenty feet below the main buildings. The steam is conducted from the boilers through iron pipes laid in an underground passage, to the hot air chambers in the basement below the several apartments to be warmed. The steam is then passed through ranges of wrought iron tubing of small diameter, which become heated to the requisite degree. An abundant supply of pure cold air is admitted directly from without, through numerous apertures at the bottom of the hot air chamber. The air thus admitted, comes in contact with the heated surfaces of the steam pipes, and is thereby raised to the proper temperature, and then drawn through numerous flues to the various rooms and wards occupied by the patients. The steam on its passage through the various ranges of pipes, is condensed,—becomes water, which is conveyed directly back into the boilers without loss or artificial force, to be reconverted into steam, and again to perform its circuit as before, carrying heat to the various apartments of the hospital.

" Although the first cost of the apparatus is somewhat expensive, it is believed it will last many years, and furnish the most desirable temperature at the least possible consumption of fuel. The space warmed by this apparatus, is about *four hundred thousand cubic feet*, to warm which by large ten plate stoves, would require at least sixteen in number. The amount of wood consumed in twenty-four hours, does not exceed one and a half cords, at an expense of two dollars, which is about one and a fourth cents per day, for each patient properly warmed. All the wards of the hospital except one, are now heated by steam.— Sufficient time will be required during the warm season, to make some changes in the construction of one of the hot air chambers, before a free current of air into this ward can be produced. Although the apparatus promises well at present, it is proper to remark that it will require the severe cold of winter, fully to test its merits.

" Steam is also used for pumping, for cooking, for heating water for washing, bathing, &c. Cold water in abundance is forced by means of a steam pump, to the large reservoirs in the attic of the main building, from which it is drawn to the various apartments where it is needed."

11. Dr. Stribling, in his Annual Report of the *Western Lunatic Asylum*, furnishes us with elaborate Statistical Tables.

The following varies somewhat from those ordinarily given:

Remaining :	More Less than 12 months		Males.	Females.	Total.
	Duration.				
At the commencement of the year,	199	17	121	95	216
Admitted during the year,	94	38	80	52	132
	—	—	—	—	—
	293	55	201	147	348
	—	—	—	—	—
Discharged Recovered,.....			31	14	45
" Much Improved,.....			3	1	4
" Improved,.....			0	2	2
" Unimproved,.....			2	0	2
Died,			9	10	19
	—	—	—	—	—
Eloped,			45	27	72
	—	—	—	—	—

We subjoin the following Table:

TABLE VII.

Show the Duration of Insanity to present time, or to the date of discharge with those who have been in the Asylum during the year.

		Males.	Females.	Total.
Of those insane less than 1 year,	- - -	25	14	39
" " from 1 to 3 years,	- - -	38	23	61
3 to 5 "	- - -	23	25	48
5 to 10 "	- - -	24	23	47
10 to 15 "	- - -	33	18	51
15 to 20 "	- - -	15	17	32
20 to 30 "	- - -	10	13	23
30 to 40 "	- - -	1	2	3
Unascertained,	- - - - -	32	12	44
		201	147	348

The prospect of recovery in all cases remaining in the Asylum, at the date of the report is thus stated:

Favorable for 16; Doubtful for 23; Unfavorable for 236.

12. Various untoward circumstances have prevented the completion of the Illinois State Hospital for the Insane, but the whole is now under the vigilant care and direction of Dr. Higgins, the Medical Superintendent, and an expectation is expressed, that during the present summer, three wards will be sufficiently completed, with a capacity to accommodate sixty patients.

13. All our readers are aware of the catastrophe that befell the *Maine Insane Hospital* on the night of the 3rd of Dec. 1850. Twenty-seven patients, "and a most amiable and excellent young man, the pride of his parents and relatives, fell victims to the devouring element." In another place it is mentioned that he (H. D. Jones,) was one of the attendants, and in exerting himself to rescue the patients, shared the fate of many of them.

Dr. Bates, reports the following as the condition of the Institution during the first eight months of the year, viz. from April 1, 1850, to Dec. 1850 :

		Males.	Females.	Total.
Remaining March 31, 1850,.....		86	58	144
Admitted to Nov. 30, 1850,.....		44	35	79
		—	—	—
		130	93	223
Discharged	Recovered,.....	28	29	48
"	Improved,.....	6	15	21
"	Unimproved,.....	10	9	19
Died,.....		7	4	11
		—	—	—
		51	48	99

"By the above it will appear, that the first eight months of the year compared well with any former period. The highest, and average numbers, were greater, and the recoveries at the rate of seventy-two for the year, is a considerable advance on usual proportions." Dr. Bates, resigned on the 31st of January, and Dr. Harlow, the Assistant Physician, was appointed to the charge of the Patients in those wings of the building that remained uninjured. The number of patients remaining on the 1st of February, 1851, were 52, 32 females, and 20 males, to whom 13 had been added to the date of the Report.

We desired to say something expressive of a hope that the Legislature of Maine would take speedy measures to rebuild this Hospital, but the remarks of Dr. Harlow, enforce the necessity of this, better than we could do.

"In relation to the re-erection of the Maine Insane Hospital, little need be said by me, as the subject will be elaborately presented by the Trustees and others. Suffice it for me to say briefly, that the indispensableness of a *home* for this suffering class of community, is obvious and undoubted—the wants of the public demand it—the reputation of the commonwealth asks it—humanity cries aloud for it—our friends and fellow citizens bereft of reason call loudly for it. And where shall we

find a better object, a nobler charity, more ‘heavenly and divine,’ on which we can ‘cast our bread and find it after many days?’

“ It is conceded by all who have investigated the subject, that insanity is fearfully on the increase in our land; especially is this true in the northern and New-England States. We hazard the opinion that could an accurate census be taken of the insane and idiots who are incapable of taking care of themselves in Maine, the proportion would be found to be one in every three hundred of its inhabitants. And the same melancholy fact we believe would obtain in all the other New-England States. No station or condition in life seems to present an entire immunity from the shafts of this dire disease. The old and young, the rich and poor, the high and low, the ignorant and the man of letters, are all liable to be seized with insanity. And there is not a man, woman or child in this peaceful and happy state, who may not need the quiet abode of this or some other retreat for mind diseased. Says an eminent Superintendent of a Lunatic Asylum in a neighboring State:—‘ Every year some of our best minds become deranged and a retreat from the cares and troubles of life is sought for them in the Hospitals of the country, which shield them from many sources of affliction and afford them increased chances of recovery.’

“ Maine has done much for its citizens, not only in this department of benevolence, but in all the benevolent enterprises of the day. Her treasury has ever been freely and bountifully opened to all the calls of her unfortunate and suffering sons and daughters. Private beneficence has not been slow in opening its munificent hands in this channel of good. Let us not be weary in well doing. Though misfortune has overtaken us and crippled the benevolent designs of the noblest Institution in the State, let it be rebuilt, let not its dilapidated and crumbling walls remain a memento of unprosperousness. The resources of the State are ample and the good sense of the people, I am persuaded, will consider this heaven-born charity in a favorable light and provide a home for the poor lunatic.

“ Do any doubt the feasibility and benefits of such an institution?—We can only refer them to the four hundred and fifty-two citizens of Maine who have left this Hospital restored, through the blessing of God, to reason and usefulness, during the ten years it has been in operation, as the strongest evidence in favor of its practicability.”

14. Dr. Butler, *of the Hartford Retreat for the Insane,* presents the following Table:

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Remaining.....	73	70	143
Admitted during the year,.....	56	72	128
	129	142	271

Of this number, discharged :

Recovered,.....	25	34	59
Much Improved,.....	7	3	10
Improved,.....	8	8	16
Not Improved,.....	8	6	14
Died,.....	9	6	15
	57	57	114

Remaining,.....	72	85	157
-----------------	----	----	-----

The whole number admitted into the Asylum from its opening to the 1st of April, was,.....	2,160
Discharged, Recovered,.....	1135
" Improved, &c.,.....	668
Died,.....	200
Remaining,.....	2,003
	157
	2,160

While it is remarked, that but few events have marked the past year, yet the details still remain of a nature deeply to interest the best feelings of the medical attendant. Like many others, Dr. Butler, complains of the bad consequences of premature removals. Their history, he observes, is very sad: "Many have relapsed into an incurable state, while others remain half-crazed or nervous invalids, and will probably remain so for life." Of the deaths, there was one from apoplexy, epilepsy, old age, general paralysis, erysipelas and suicide, respectively; two, from general debility; three from exhaustion and four from dysentery. No epidemic or contagious disease, or any unusual sickness has prevailed.

The following facts gleaned from the report, illustrate the necessity of establishing even in this State, numeri-

cally small in its population, Asylums for the incurable, so that the whole attention of the Medical Superintendent may be directed to the recovery of the recent Insane.

The State Authorities of Connecticut have from time to time granted funds in aid of those patients who are in narrow circumstances. The amount was \$2000 in 1842, and increased to \$5000 in 1843, and has been continued at the last sum up to the present time. The whole number thus assisted, since 1842, was 439, of which, 236 were recent, and 203 old, cases. Of the recent cases 186 have been discharged recovered, 13 improved, 4 not improved, and 20 have died; while of the 203 old cases, there have been discharged recovered only 25, improved 47, not improved 46, and 32 have died, leaving in the Retreat, 13 recent and 53 old cases, who are partially supported by the State.

"The whole number of lunatics in this State, is between six and seven hundred. The whole number in the Retreat during the past year has been two hundred and seventy-one, of whom fifty were from other States, leaving not more than one-third of the whole number of the lunatics of Connecticut in the Retreat."

In a previous report, Dr. Butler, has shown, that while one hundred and two old cases in different lunatic Hospitals had then cost \$201,336 or \$1,973 dollars each, the same number of recent cases last discharged from the same hospitals, had cost only \$6,068 or \$59 each. "Insanity passes *rapidly* from the acute and very curable stage, to the chronic and incurable. The chances of recovery diminish in a singularly rapid manner. Here a timely and amply efficient liberality is most wise and economical, for unless prompt aid secures a recovery, the case becomes chronic and a charge for life."

15. In the eighth Annual Report of the Managers of the *New-York State Lunatic Asylum*, we have the first in which the present Superintendent, Dr. Benedict, has appeared before the public. The Statistics presented by him exhibit a formidable array of numbers.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Remaining at the commencement of the year,	226	223	449
Admitted during the year,	185	182	367
	—	—	—
	411	405	816
Of this number there have been discharged:			
Recovered,	94	77	171
Much Improved,	4	4	8
Improved,	26	23	49
Unimproved,	51	57	108
Died,	34	17	51
	—	—	—
	209	178	387
Remaining,	202	227	429

"Eight hundred and sixteen patients have been treated during the past year. This large number of cases has come before us as new patients, to be examined, studied and treated. Four hundred and forty-nine, it is true, were here at the end of last year, and many of them had been here for years; still, when my duties commenced, we were unacquainted. For this and for many other reasons, the labors of the past year have been great, and if they have not been in all respects satisfactory to our friends, we can add they have not been to us, and we see wherein we can improve, and trust we shall have the ability as well as the will to do so.

"Of the three hundred and sixty-seven cases admitted, nine were twice admitted during the year, reducing the number to three hundred and fifty-eight persons who came to us strangers."

The following remarks on some of the diseases that have proved fatal, we also copy:

"It will be seen by the above table that twelve died of chronic insanity, the powers of life gradually failing under the weight of mental suffering. These cases presented no evidence of organic disease; no inflammation or results of inflammation in any tissue or organ. For months before their dissolution, the capillary circulation became extremely feeble, the secretions imperfect, the elaboration and appropriation of

food defective, and consequent emaciation ensued. The whole train of morbid phenomena being referable to insanity, it seems proper to report them as dying of mania rather than of 'marasmus.' These twelve deaths were all old cases, whose last hope of restoration had long since departed, whose existence for years had been at best but a living death, a protracted dying, and for a continuation of which their most devoted friends could have no longings.

"Three died of acute mania; a very small mortality in proportion to the number admitted with this form of disease. No class of patients give us more anxiety, and no deaths, except by suicide, are more painful. These three cases were males, one of whom arrived after a fatiguing and exciting journey by railroad, in a state of intense excitement, which had existed for a few days, during which the patient had taken but little food or sleep, his physical powers far exhausted, and in spite of every effort to subdue it, the raving and delirium continued with increased intensity, while the bodily strength failed until death closed the scene on the seventh day after admission, the body crushed and prostrated by the ungovernable power of its own machinery. The second was a case of less intensity of excitement, and more protracted. The third was a case of paroxysmal insanity, long a resident in the institution, whose attacks were gradually becoming more and more intense. These cases might be said to die from exhaustion, but we think acute mania better expresses the cause of death."

"Thirteen died of dysentery; a larger number than from any other disease, though it was at no time epidemic in the institution. We include under the head of dysentery, a form of disease very unlike dysentery of private practice and of general hospitals, but which we believe is common in asylums, and which we do not recollect to have seen called by any other name. It occurs in chronic cases whose powers of life have been long gradually sinking, and in recent cases who have become much exhausted by protracted excitement. Without premonitory symptoms or exposure to known exciting causes, the patient is suddenly seized, and generally in the night, with bloody discharges, scanty and gelatinous; or more frequently, copious and serous; with no heat of skin or abdomen, nor pain or thirst, or loss of appetite or strength. Death supervenes a few days after the attack. We have witnessed but little benefit from remedies in this form of disease—the treatment for ordinary dysentery proving entirely nugatory."

The forms of derangement are classified as follows:

Acute Mania,.....	154	Monomania,.....	81
Chronic Mania,.....	255	Paroxysmal Mania,.....	59
Melancholia,.....	77	Moral Insanity,.....	9
Acute Dementia,.....	15	Epilepsy,.....	22
Chronic Dementia,.....	117	Senile Dementia,.....	1
General Paralysis,.....	3	Idiocy,.....	6
Intemperance,.....	7	Typho-Mania,.....	2
Mania a potu,.....	2	Feigned Insanity,*.....	8

The duration of Insanity in this large number (816,) was for one year and less, in 465 patients, the remainder range from two to sixty-five years.

No part of this report is more interesting than the notices of the causes of Insanity.

"Masturbation as a very fruitful cause of insanity, deserves especial attention. Fifty-five cases admitted during the past year we attributed to this cause, and we believe this to be less than the actual number. Many of these cases had been addicted to this horrid vice from youth and even childhood, by which their mental and physical strength was insidiously debilitated and insanity slowly induced."

"Twenty-two puerperal cases were admitted during the year. Fifteen remained in the asylum at the close of last year. The exciting causes in these cases, whether physical or moral, have not been obtained with sufficient accuracy to make them a matter of record. Of these thirty-seven cases one became insane one week previous to confinement, six immediately after confinement, one on the third day, one the fifth, one a week, six two weeks, two three weeks, two four weeks, two eight weeks, two twelve weeks, two fourteen weeks, and one sixteen weeks after confinement. In nine the date of attack was unknown. Insanity coming on soon after delivery is in many instances, undoubtedly owing to the too early return of the female to her accustomed duties."

"Another cause of insanity is *fatigue and anxiety in rearing a family.* We place these causes under a distinct head for the purpose of calling

"The eight cases of feigned insanity were all prisoners. The form of insanity assumed, varies. By one person, vacuity was simulated, he being mute and motionless. Another presented the phenomena of epilepsy and hydrophobia combined to a most terrific degree, which disappeared soon after admission, but returned with increased violence after removal to prison."

to them special attention. These eighteen are females whose married life, for the most part, commenced with little means. Possessing in common with their husbands a laudable ambition to provide a comfortable home for a rapidly increasing family, they task themselves beyond what the female frame by nature is intended to endure."

"We have recorded 'defective training' as the sole cause of insanity in seven cases. That it is the remote cause in hundreds, we have no doubt. Parents and guardians cannot be too strongly impressed with their responsibility in this matter, especially in those families, in which, near or remote, insanity may have occurred, and so rear their offspring as to guard them against this appalling calamity."

On the suicidal propensity, and which proved successful in one case, the following will be read with deep interest :

"Of the eight hundred and sixteen patients in the institution during the past year, the suicidal propensity existed in sixty-six; twenty-two males and forty-four females. There were twenty-eight—twenty-one females and seven males—in the house at one time. In twenty of these twenty-one females, the propensity was intense. To have at one time under care, twenty-eight persons, bent upon destroying themselves, is a burden which they alone know who bear it, increased by the necessity of carrying at all times, amid surrounding sadness, a cheerful countenance over a heavy heart. The successful attempt at self-destruction, before reported, was made on the 12th of July, by a female patient of our most intelligent class. Her melancholy end became known to her companions, with whom she was a favorite, and on the following day two other patients on the same hall, were overheard devising a plan for their own death. About this time the suicidal propensity prevailed extensively, and seemed to be epidemic. There were admitted during the month of July the large number of forty-four patients, from different portions of the State, nineteen of whom were suicidal. Several of these had attempted suicide immediately previous to admission. One by suspension, which was discovered before life was entirely extinct, to whom animation was with difficulty restored. Another by cutting her throat in a most shocking manner, and others by poison. Two patients who had been long in the house, and never exhibited suicidal propensities, attempted it during this month, though they had no knowledge of the violent death that had occurred in another portion of the building.

On the thirteenth of this month, ignorant of the occurrences of the previous day, they attempted strangulation ; and so persevering were they in subsequent attempts, that they could only be preserved by mechanical restraint. On the same day a female attendant took an ounce of tincture of opium 'because she liked it,' without, however, any apparent intention of self-destruction. She had been an active and faithful person, and still continues in the service of the institution, useful and trusted.

" On the 17th, a patient believed to be entirely ignorant of all that had occurred previously, attempted strangulation, and continued to repeat the attempt, until restrained by mechanical means. On the 20th, a patient tried to open a vein in her neck ; and on the 22d, another, who knew of the suicide, and was no doubt influenced by it, attempted her destruction.

" From the 14th of July, fourteen attempts were made by eight different persons, and twelve others in whom the propensity was strong, required constant observation.

" The suicidal epidemic prevailed from the 12th to the end of July, after which time it gradually subsided, and left the minds of most of the patients. No suicidal attempt was made in August in any portion of the house. The above dates and particulars are taken from the day book, in which the daily occurrences of the house are recorded. They were accurately noted by Dr. Cook, senior assistant physician, to whose care and attention the safety and comfort of the female patients during this trying time was mainly due, and who, for his zeal and faithfulness, in the performance of his duties generally, and for gentleness, delicacy and prudence, merits the highest praise."

And then as to homicidal :

" We have had during the year ten homicidal cases, nine men and one woman : a part admitted during the year, a part previously. Of the latter, two are intensely homicidal. These two have been insane for many years, and the propensity seems to increase in activity with the duration of their disease. One, a very athletic man, shows a desire to kill by strangulation. He has often been seen, without any provocation, to seize another by the throat and arrest respiration, at the same time smiling with satanic pleasure. The other desires to kill with a cutting instrument, and is rendered perfectly rabid by the sight of a knife. These, though dangerous when at large, are in our judgment rendered more fierce and savage by seclusion. We therefore give these, in common with all others, much liberty."

Although there is much other matter that might be extracted, we will only subjoin the following:

"As the violent patients, out of two hundred and twenty of each sex make a very bad class, as bad as could be made by taking three or four of the very worst, from three or four small institutions, still we are willing to compare our most excited family, in comfort, cleanliness, order and liberty, with a similar class anywhere. We have no 'straw rooms,' no sleeping room without a comfortable bed and bedding, and no matter how destructive a patient may be, these are renewed each night, the room being unoccupied through the day. Every female patient has a bedstead in her room. In the men's wing, a single room only without furniture, in each excited hall, is needed for temporary seclusion.

"Our household is divided into ten distinct families of each sex, living as distinct from each other as families in adjoining houses in a city, each having their separate domestic accommodations, dining rooms, sitting, reading and sewing rooms, verandahs for exercise, bath rooms and water closets.

"The food and cooking, bedding and attendance, is the same in all parts of the house. The furniture of each hall is adapted to the state of mind and habits of those occupying it. Our bill of fare is very complete, wholesome, nutritious, palatable and abundant. Our most improved classes will compare in intelligence and good manners, in the style and furniture of their tables and apartments, with the company and accommodations of the generality of our hotels. These classes number in all about seventy-five, containing the convalescent and recovered patients, and those so slightly disturbed in their mental equilibrium, as not to interfere with the comforts of each other.

"We have ample facilities for pleasure, amusement and exercise within doors, though many of this class are allowed to walk out at pleasure unattended. We are governed in our selections for this liberty by character, habits, temptations and impulses of each individual. From the best to the worst class, the gradation is gradual and almost imperceptible. The first five are very pleasant, quiet and agreeable; the remaining five descend gradually from the dull to the stupid, demented and filthy, noisy and violent. They are so arranged that the first classes see nothing and hear little of the others. When patients are first received, they are placed with a family, which, according to the account given by their friends, they seem best suited for, and they are subsequently removed to a better or worse as their varying mental condition may render necessary. It is from the most violent and excited class,

that the most cures are effected, and it is not uncommon for a patient of this class to pass through all the intermediate families, until discharged from the most pleasant. Others experience more sudden changes, and are more rapid in their transition. When a patient becomes noisy or turbulent in a quiet class, he is removed to one less rational, or confined to his room a part of the day. This is the discipline upon which we depend. The application of cold water to suppress insubordination, is never allowed. An attendant would be instantly discharged for such an act, and when an attendant is discharged from the institution for a violation of its rules, according to their agreement they forfeit one month's wages. Whilst we require kindness and persuasion in the management of patients, we encourage firmness and decision."

[The publication of the remainder of the foregoing article, embracing the Reports of the Mount Hope Asylum, near Baltimore, the New-York Almshouse, and the Quebec (Canada) Lunatic Asylum, is unavoidably deferred till our next number.]

SELECTIONS.

A NEW FORM OF INSANITY.—In Berlin, a curious subject for a thesis has been found by a student in medicine, the son of M. Groddeck, the deputy, seeking his degree. M. Groddeck has discovered a new form of epidemic, whose virus has of late circulated throughout the Continental Nations with a rapidity contrasting strongly with the solemn and stately march of cholera. Its developement, indeed, has been all but simultaneous in the great European Capitals, but we know not that it has before occurred to any one to treat it medically. M. Groddeck's thesis, publicly maintained, is entitled "*De morbo democratico, nova insanæ forma.*" (On the democratic disease, a new form of insanity.)—The Faculty of Medicine, with the usual dislike of Faculties of Medicine to new discoveries, refused admission, it appears, to this dissertation, but the Senate of the University, on M. Groddeck's appeal, reversed their decision.—*Athenæum, March 23, 1850.*

TABLE showing the frequency of relapses in cases of insanity. Kept at Siegburg, by Dr. Jacobi.

	Males.	Females	Total.
From 1st Jan., 1825, to 31st Dec., 1845, the number of cures has been.....	377	284	661
Of this number, among those who yet live, are counted :			
Those whose cure is not doubted.....	169	153	322
Those who have had one relapse and have been cured again in the establishment.....	79	48	127
Those who, having been brought back, are not restored.....	5	6	11
Those, lastly, who, after a relapse, remain incurable.....	34	30	64
Among those who are dead :			
Those who died without having a relapse	43	25	68
Those who died in a relapse.....	39	18	57
Lastly, those of whom no knowledge could be obtained.....	8	4	12

Insane in Scotland.—The total number of inmates of public asylums and private institutions for the Insane in Scotland is 1,522. The annual expenditure for the maintenance of lunatics amounted in 1850, to £31,598. The number of lunatics in the Workhouses in the same year, was 362, at a cost of £2,415 6 8. The total number living with their relatives was 10,009 at a cost of £10,099. The total cost for the maintenance of all classes of lunatics was £44,023, being an average of £13, 10, 10. *Atlas, (London Newspaper,) April 26, 1851.*

We find the same difficulty with these returns as with most others. There would seem to be almost an impossibility to print *figures* accurately. The sum total expended is *nearly* accurate, taking the previous data as stated, that is, it amounts to £44,013, but the average cannot be right. The total of Lunatics is 11,893, and the average would hence be less than £4 0 0.

Dr. John Haslam.—An eccentric physician lately deceased, (Dr. John Haslam), one day declared on his examination in a law court, that "For his part, he believed no one to be in perfectly sound mind, except the CREATOR." "And from what do you collect," said Mr. (now Lord) Brougham, wishing to make him utter some still more startling paradox, "that even HE is perfectly sane." "From my constant observation of the justice with which he wields his power," was the ready and serious reply.—*Lunacy and Lunatic Life.*

Diet.—Dr. Thomas G. Wright, Physician to the West Yorkshire Lunatic Asylum, in a recent publication (1850) observes.

"All experience in the treatment of the insane proves that a full and nutritious diet tends much to the recovery of the patients in a majority of cases, even under maniacal excitement, as well as other forms of mental disease; an axiom which is corroborated by the fact, that in Asylums, where the diet is liberal, the proportion of recoveries is generally larger than in those where it is more meagre."

The following is also extracted from Dr. Wright's publication.—
"Proportion of recoveries, to the numbers admitted into English Asylums, in which, pauper patients only are received, to December, 1848:

	Years established.	Cured per cent. on admission.
County Asylum of Lancaster,.....	32	40.1
" " of West Riding,.....	30	41.9
" " of Suffolk,.....	20	42.1
" " of Hanwell, (Middlesex,),	18	24.4
" " of Kent,.....	15	27.7

London Journal of Medicine, January, 1851.

Asylum for Idiots.—On the 24th of April, 1851, the fourth annual meeting of the supporters of this benevolent institution took place, at the London Tavern, R. Fox, Esq., in the chair. It appeared from the report, that there was an increase in the number of patients at present in the Institution which now amounted to 141 and there were to be 15 above by that day's election, which would make the entire number of the entire household 156. The establishment at Essex Hall, Colchester, contained 82 persons. Many had been taught to wash and dress themselves; while those who had entered the institution, perfectly dumb, were now able to utter distinct articulate sounds. The receipts for the past year, including a balance of £383 was £8,013, and the expenditures left a balance of £563. The report was unanimously adopted, and the election of the fifteen new inmates was proceeded with.—*London Newspaper, April 26, 1851.*

New Lunatic Asylum in Massachusetts.—The Committee of our State Legislature on charitable Institutions, Dr. Graves, of Lowell, Chairman—have recommended the establishment of a second Hospital for the Insane, and an act was accordingly passed, the first section of which is given below.

"His Excellency, the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Council, is hereby empowered and authorized to appoint a Board of three Commissioners, who shall purchase an eligible site in such section

of the Commonwealth, as the said Commissioners may deem expedient and cause to be erected thereon a suitable Hospital for the care and cure of the insane, the accommodations of such hospital to be sufficient for two hundred and fifty patients, a superintendent and steward, their families and all the necessary subordinate officers, and the said Commissioners shall have power to make all contracts, and employ all agents, necessary to carry into effect the powers herein before granted; provided that the aggregate expenses and liabilities incurred by virtue of said powers, shall not exceed the sum of one hundred thousand dollars, &c."—*Boston Med. and Surg. Journal,*

Obituary.—M. Leuret, physician to the Hospital of the Bicetre, died at his native place, Nancy, on the 6th of January, 1851. He had been ill for a number of years, but during the previous summer, he supposed himself perfectly recovered, and accordingly resumed his arduous duties at the Hospital. But the amelioration was transient, and he survived but a short time after his removal to his birth place, where he was brought, at his own request, as a last resort. An English Journalist speaks of him in the following terms:

"M. Leuret was one of those persons, now so rare, who pursued their career without noise or ostentation; therefore, notwithstanding the extent and variety of his knowledge, the remarkable clearness of his judgment, and his personal value, it was long before M. Leuret enjoyed that degree of public estimation to which his peculiar talents so justly entitled him. He wanted ambition, and was consequently inactive. Even his great work on the Comparative Anatomy of the Nervous System still remains unfinished."

"The peculiar doctrines of M. Leuret on the moral treatment of insanity are well known. They met with obstinate opposition in France, and were the principal cause of the little public success which their professor obtained. On the other hand, M. Leuret was one of the most effective opponents of phrenology, and his profound knowledge of the comparative anatomy of the brain enabled him to overthrow many a brilliant theory, which seemed inexpugnable when applied to the man alone."

BOOKS RECEIVED, &c.

We have received, either through exchange or otherwise, the following, and hope to notice at least some of them in our next :

A SELECTION OF PAPERS AND PRIZE ESSAYS, on Subjects connected with Insanity, read before the Society for Improving the Condition of the Insane. 8vo. London : Published by the Society. 1850.

REMARKS ON INSANITY, ITS NATURE AND TREATMENT. By Henry Monro, M. B., Oxon. 8vo. London. 1851.

ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CRICTON ROYAL INSTITUTION FOR LUNATICS, Dumfries. November 11, 1850

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND LUNATIC ASYLUM. The second Annual Report of the United Committee of Visitors : being the Report for the Year 1850.

BY-LAWS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE LUNATIC HOSPITAL AT HARRISBURG, with the Acts of the Legislature Establishing the Same. Harrisburgh. 1851.

REPORT ON THE POOR INSANE OF RHODE ISLAND, made to the General Assembly at its January Session, 1851. By Thomas R. Hazard. Printed by order. Providence. 1851.

SKETCH OF THE EPIDEMIC RELIGIOUS MONOMANIA, WHICH OCCURRED IN SWEDEN, IN 1841 and 1842. By S. Hanbury Smith, M. D., Professor, &c. From the Ohio Medical and Surgical Journal. Columbus. 1850.

THERMAL VENTILATION AND OTHER SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS, Applicable to Public Building and recently adopted at the New-York Hospital: A Discourse delivered at the Hospital, February 8, 1851. By John Watson, M. D. New York. 1851.

Southern Med. and Surg. Journal, July, August, and September.
Ohio Med. and Surg. Journal, July and September.

New-York Register of Med. and Pharmacy, from July to Sept. 15.
Northern Lancet, and Gazette of Legal Medicine, July, Aug., Sept.
American Phrenological Journal, August and September.
Water-Cure Journal, August and September.

New Jersey Medical Reporter, July, August, and September.
Albany Cultivator, July, August and September.

Western Literary Messenger, July, August, and September.
Foreign Missionary, July, August, and September.

Literary World, July to September. No. 240 missing.

Transylvania Medical Journal, New Series to Sept. 1.

Southern Literary Messenger, July, August, and September.

Western Medico-Chirurg. Journal, June, July, and August.

New England Botanic, Med. and Surg. Journal, July, Aug. and Sept.
St. Louis Med. and Surg. Journal, July and August.
Medical News and Library, July, August and September.
New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal, July and September.
American Journal of Pharmacy, July.
Missionary Herald, July, August, and September.
American Journal of Medical Sciences, July.
Charleston Medical Journal and Review, July and September.
Stethoscope and Virginia Medical Gazette, July, Aug. and Sept.
British-American Medical and Physical Journal, July and August.
Boston Med. and Surg. Journal, from 1220 to 1232 inclusive
Ohio Teacher, August.
Medical Examiner, for July, and August.
Christian Union, July, August and September.
Prisoner's Friend, July, August and September.
Scalpel, August.
North-Western Med. and Surg. Journal, July and September.
Nashville Journal of Medicine and Surgery, August.
Genessee Farmer, July, August and September.
New-York Journal of Medicine, and the Collateral Sciences, July
and September.
Dublin Medical Press, 659; missing to No. 661.
Buffalo Medical Journal, and Monthly Review, July, Aug. and Sept.
New Hampshire Journal of Medicine, July, August and September.
Dublin Quarterly Journal of Medical Science, August.
Y Cenhadwr Americanaidd, Gorpennhaf, Awst a Medi.
Harper's New Monthly Magazine, July, August and September.
Godey's Ladies' Book, July, August and September.
Graham's Magazine, July, August, September.
Littell's Living Age, to No. 385.
Dental Times and Advertiser, vol. i, No. 1.
Prisoner's Friend, July, August and September.
Forester's Boys' and Girls' Magazine, August and September.
The Student, July, August and September.
Home Missionary, July and September.
Foreign Missionary, July, August and September.
The Ark and Odd-Fellow's Magazine, July, August and September.
American Journal of Dental Science, July.
Dollar Magazine, August and September.
Nordamerikanischer Monatsbericht. Fur Natur und Heilkunde,
July, August, and September.
United States Magazine and Democratic Review, July, August, and
September.
American Whig Review, July, August, and September.
Mother's Magazine and Family Monitor, July, August, and September.
Hydropathic Encyclopedia, No. 1, 2, and 3.
An Address to the Medical Profession, By Dr. H. A. Ramsay.
Quarterly Summary of the Transactions of the College of Physicians
of Philadelphia.
Transactions of New-York Academy of Medicine.
A New Sign Language: A Thesis for the degree of Doctor of Medi-
cine, By Albert J. Myer.